

STARS AND STRIPES®

Rockies trade outfielder Walker to Cards

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Larry Walker



"Super Freak" — the gift that keeps on giving

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'Renegades' egg on fight day in, day out

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2004



MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Xavier Pastchol, who was wounded in a roadside bomb attack in Iraq, is wheeled into Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Pastchol was two days from ending his commitment with his Guard unit when they were called up to Iraq.

Lucky to be alive: Story of a wounded soldier at Landstuhl

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*"I was just going back to sit
down and 'boom!'"*

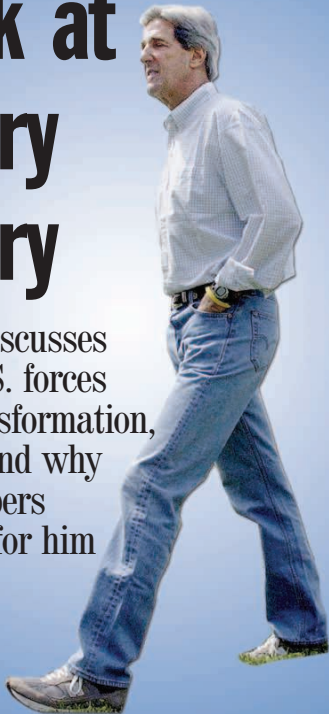
Spc. Xavier Pastchol
3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment
of the Arkansas National Guard

Stars and Stripes interview with Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry

A look at a Kerry military

Candidate discusses
reducing U.S. forces
in Iraq, transformation,
pay issues and why
servicemembers
should vote for him

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Financing terrorists: Three men indicted last week on charges of using a Muslim charity to finance terrorists were released from jail Friday while they await an October trial, but were ordered to wear electronic monitors.

A federal magistrate ordered the release of the men, including the president and chairman of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, which prosecutors say was a financial supporter of the militant group Hamas.

Columbine investigation: Current and former employees of the sheriff's office began appearing Friday before a state grand jury trying to determine if police documents connected to the Columbine High shooting attack were stolen or destroyed.

Witnesses refused to comment and jurors would only say they were told to expect a long day at the Denver City and County Building.

Among those subpoenaed was former Jefferson County Sheriff John Stone, who was in charge of the investigation after Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold stormed through the suburban high school near Littleton and killed 13 people before taking their own lives.

Fla. brain-damaged woman: Attorneys for Gov. Jeb Bush argued Friday that a trial is needed to determine the wishes of a severely brain-damaged woman at the center of a contentious right-to-die case.

The governor's arguments respond to those made by attorneys for Michael Schiavo, who is suing Bush over the constitutionality of a law that blocked the removal of Terri Schiavo's feeding tube last October.

Michael Schiavo and his in-laws are battling over the husband's intentions Terri Schiavo said she never wanted to be kept alive if she suffered severe brain damage.

Louisiana serial killer trial: A man suspected of seven killings in south Louisiana interrupted testimony in his first murder trial Friday to ask a judge to appoint a lawyer.

Derrick Todd Lee met with the judge, his defense lawyer and prosecutors on Thursday evening to speak in private about the quality of Lee's defense. He brought it up in open court Friday.

Judge Robin Free told him he could not fire a public defender, and suggested Lee work out a solution over the weekend with his defense lawyer, Tommy Thompson, and other lawyers on the defense team.

Disney employee fondling case: A Walt Disney World employee accused of fondling a 13-year-old girl while dressed as Tigger can return to work, company officials said Friday.

Michael Chartrand had been on unpaid administrative leave since his arrest. A jury found him not guilty of lewd and lascivious molestation earlier this week.

Chartrand, who has worked at Disney for less than a year, was reinstated after meeting with Disney entertainment officials Friday, said Donna-Lynne Dalton, an official of the union that represents the park's costumed workers.

Military

National intelligence czar: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Friday he supports the creation of a national intelligence director's post, despite calling a similar pro-



Terrorism exercise: A hazmat worker checks the area for sarin gas in a disaster drill at Norfolk International Terminals in Norfolk, Va. The scenario involved a suicide bomber on a cruise ship. The deadly gas was released with several "dead and injured," Norfolk Fire and Rescue personnel used meters to sample the air on the ship to look for the "hot spot" — where the explosion occurred — and to determine if the ship was safe for rescue personnel.

posed a "disservice" a few months ago, and he warned that other reforms proposed by the Sept. 11 commission do not address the critical failure of intelligence agencies to share information.

In an interview with the Chicago Tribune as he flew to Chicago for a speech, Rumsfeld said he now supports the idea of an intelligence chief — his first comments on the subject since President Bush ended the idea Monday. He said the commission's other proposals, which have been greeted enthusiastically by leaders of both parties, need to be reviewed carefully.

Virginia ghost fleet: One ship left the James River "Ghost Fleet" last week to be scrapped, two more are to follow this summer, and federal officials have said they won't be the last.

Capt. William G. Schubert, head of the U.S. Maritime Administration, has scheduled a news conference Monday to talk about the fleet. U.S. Sens. John Warner and George Allen, both R-Va., and U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Davis, R-Va., are expected to attend.

But when Schubert announced in June that a contract to dismantle three ships had been awarded, he said he expected the agency to award contracts this summer to scrap seven more, or nearly all, of the fleet's most hazardous ships.

World

2000 Fiji coup: Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase on Saturday urged Fijians to forgive those responsible for a 2000 coup that ousted the nation's first ethnic Indian prime minister, a day after the vice president was sentenced to four years in jail for his role in the affair.

Vice President Jose Seniloli was convicted of attempting an illegal oath of office when he swore in the rebel government of ethnic Fijian nationalist George Speight after the May 2000 coup.

Four other defendants — Parliament's Deputy Speaker Rakuita Vakalalabure and three businessmen — were imprisoned for between one year and six years after being convicted on the same charge.

Palestinian government crisis: The Palestinian justice minister announced his resignation Saturday, part of a growing government crisis over Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat's refusal to carry out internal reform and share power.

The minister, Nahed Arreyes, said he stepped down because key powers had been taken from him. He did not mention Arafat by name.

In Israel, the police minister, Tzahi Hanegbi, called for the detention of Jewish extremists without charges or trial, reiterating warnings that they might attack Israeli leaders or a Jerusalem holy site sacred to Muslims and Jews.

Al-Jazeera network: The Iraqi government said Saturday it had closed the Iraqi offices of Al-Jazeera for 30 days, accusing the pan-Arab television station of inciting violence.

Al-Jazeera was not given a reason for the closure, said Jihad Ballout, the network's spokesman.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the government had convened an independent commission a month ago to monitor Al-Jazeera's daily coverage "to see what kind of violence they are advocating, inciting hatred and problems and racial tension."

Philippines vs. rebels: Gunbattles between government forces and communist rebels killed at least 21 people in the deadliest fighting to hit the Philippines in months, officials said Friday.

Troops overran a major communist New People's Army camp in southern Agusan del Norte province Thursday, killing at least 12 rebels and five soldiers, the military said. Thirteen troops were wounded.

On Friday, a police patrol encountered a number of guerrillas in Zambales province northwest of Manila, sparking battles in two villages that left two guerrillas and two police dead, provincial police chief Senior Superintendent Wilton Victoriano said.

Greece rounding up strays: Thousands of stray dogs being rounded up before the Olympics are not in danger of being killed or subjected to harsh treatment, Greek officials said Thursday, amid international concern. Animal rights groups say as many 15,000 dogs could be removed from Athens streets before the Aug. 13-29 Olympics. The government has placed the stray population at less than 5,000.

Stories and photos from wire services

Iraq prime minister signs amnesty law

Pardon only applies to insurgents with non-violent roles

BY TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi signed a long-awaited amnesty law Saturday that would pardon Iraqis who have played minor roles in the country's 15-month-long insurgency, but not those guilty of killing.

The amnesty had been expected to be a key element in the government's efforts to coax Iraqis away from the anti-U.S. campaign, but the more limited offer is unlikely to dampen the violence.

The announcement came as sporadic clashes continued in the holy Shiite city of Najaf, but fighting was largely calmed for two days of the most intense battles between U.S. forces and Shiite Muslim militiamen in months. The fighting Thursday and Friday spread to other Shiite communities and threatened to reignite a Shiite insurrection.

Shiite leaders, joined by a U.N. official, met with aides to militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose militia was involved in the fighting, in an effort to mediate an end to the violence.

Allawi's government has made putting down the insurgency a priority, though guerrilla attacks, as well as Iraqi and U.S. deaths, have not flagged since his government came to power last June.

The amnesty had been intended to draw nationalist guerrillas to the side of Allawi's government and away from fighters using terrorist-style bombings.

Early drafts reportedly would have forgiven most people involved in the insurgency, but the law was apparently changed to exclude anyone who had killed.

"This amnesty is not for people ... who have killed. Those people will be brought to justice, starting from Zarqawi down to the person in the street," he said, referring to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose followers have



Iraqi shop owners walk through the burnt remains of commercial stalls after a fire tore through an outdoor market. It was set on fire during clashes between fighters loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and U.S. and Iraqi forces in Najaf, Iraq, on Saturday.

claimed responsibility for deadly suicide bombings.

The amnesty would forgive those who committed minor crimes between May 1, 2003, just after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, and Saturday, he said. Those eligible would need to turn themselves in over the next 30 days, he said.

"This order has been established to allow our citizens to rejoin civil society and participate in the reconstruction of their country and the improvement of their lives, instead of wasting their lives pointlessly toward a lost cause," he said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi religious leaders tried to restore a ceasefire between al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militants and coalition and Iraqi forces that had shattered in two days of fighting that began Thursday.

The fighting in Najaf killed five U.S. servicemen, bringing to 16 the number of U.S. troops who died in Iraq in the first week of August.

Iraqi casualties from the fighting varied widely. Falah Muhana, a Health Ministry official in Najaf, said the city's hospitals reported 21 people killed and 121 in-

jured during fighting in the city. The U.S. military said 300 militants were killed in Najaf, but Ahmed al-Shabany, an al-Sadr aide in Najaf, said 36 militants had been killed. The militants often use their own health system so it is difficult to confirm their casualties.

Al-Sadr aides met in Baghdad on Saturday with Iraqi dignitaries and U.N. official Jamal Benomar. Benomar said al-Sadr's group was prepared for an immediate cease-fire and had asked for a meeting between their group and Allawi and Iraqi President Ghazi al-Yawer.

Officials from the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq — a top Shiite faction — arrived in Najaf on Saturday to mediate between al-Sadr, the local government and coalition forces, said Redha Taqi, a SCIRI official.

In Karbala, senior Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Taqi al-Modarresi called for an immediate end to the violence.

In Najaf, U.S. warplanes flew overhead and American armored vehicles and Humvees blocked the main roads into the city, but most streets appeared deserted.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 922 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 685 died as a result of hostile action and 237 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 61 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Poland, seven; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 784 U.S. servicemen have died — 576 as a result of hostile action and 208 of non-hostile causes, according to the Defense Department on Friday.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ Two Marines were killed Thursday in fighting in Najaf.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed and 12 troops were wounded Thursday in fighting in Najaf.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Donald R. McCune, 20, Ypsilanti, Mich.; died Thursday in Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries sustained when an explosive detonated near his patrol on Wednesday; assigned to the National Guard's 1st Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, 81st Brigade Combat Team, Moses Lake, Wash.

■ Marine Cpl. Dean P. Pratt, 22, Stevensville, Mont.; died Monday in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Gunnery Sgt. Elia P. Fontecchia, 30, Milford, Mass.; died Wednesday in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph L. Nice, 19, Nicoma Park, Okla.; died Wednesday in an attack in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Sporadic explosions and gunfire echoed through the city, but the violence was far less than that of the previous days.

Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurifi on Friday told insurgents 24 hours to leave the city.

On Saturday, it was unclear if militiamen were withdrawing. None were present outside al-Sadr's house, which is usually heavily guarded.

Friday's clashes were the fiercest seen in Najaf since the fall of Saddam Hussein, with U.S. helicopter gunships and fighter jets pounding insurgents hiding in a sprawling cemetery in the holy Shiite city.

On Saturday, the U.S. military said it had secured the cemetery.

Marines also found weapons caches there, including bomb-making materials, rocket-propelled grenades, assault rifles and ammunition.

The fighting with the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City and the southern cities of Amara, Basra and Nasiriyah.

At dawn Saturday, gunmen attacked the governor's office in Basra with rifles and mortar rounds. Police replied the attack, killing one of the gunmen, police Capt. Mustafa Talib said.

In Amara, insurgents attacked a British base and the main Iraqi police station overnight with 70 mortar shells, said John Cloney, a British military spokesman. There were no reports of injuries.

NATO sends officers to plan security-forces training in Iraq

BY TOM RACHMAN

The Associated Press

ROME — NATO launched its training mission for Iraqi forces Saturday, sending a small advanced group of officers to the country to consult with authorities there and to prepare logistics.

The NATO Training Implementation Mission is being led by Dutch Air Force Maj. Gen. Carel Hilderink and will initially consist of about 45 personnel. The four officers left for Iraq on Saturday from a command center in Naples, and the remainder should deploy next week, NATO said in a statement from the southern Italian city.

"Through the training of the Iraqi security forces, the Alliance

“Through the training of the Iraqi security forces, the Alliance will bring forward the day when international forces are no longer required in Iraq.”

will bring forward the day when international forces are no longer required in Iraq,” the NATO statement said.

Alliance headquarters called it the official start of the training mission.

"The guys will essentially start work right away, establishing contact, offering advice and preparing the long-term training," spokesman Robert Pieszczal said at alliance headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

NATO leaders agreed to the mission at their summit in late June but had left details vague. The 26 NATO nations agreed a week ago to send the team after sidestepping a dispute between the United States and France over command of the alliance operation.

The mission members are being drawn from NATO military planning headquarters in southern Belgium as well as command centers in Naples and Norfolk,

Virginia. The advance party of four officers will set up the groundwork for the overall group of 45, who will do some training and assess details of the mission should be conducted.

After that, the team is to report back to NATO headquarters on Sept. 15 about proposed command links with the U.S.-led multinational force, which is expected to provide security.

Washington was pushing for "unity of command" between the

two, but Paris insists they be kept separate.

NATO will then decide how to proceed with the mission. Last week, U.S. Ambassador to NATO Nicholas Burns said he expected the initial mission to be followed by a far larger force.

"It will certainly grow into the hundreds very rapidly in the early autumn," he said then.

So far, NATO's role in Iraq has been limited to providing logistical backup to a Polish-led division working with the American troops. Although 16 NATO members already have some troops there, they are not under the NATO flag.

Associated Press Writer Paul Gellner contributed to this report from Brussels, Belgium.

2 Afghan election workers killed in ambush

2 U.S. GIs killed Saturday; 6 troops wounded in Friday attacks

BY NOOR KHAN
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gunmen ambushed a convoy carrying election workers into a remote Taliban stronghold, killing two of them, an official said Saturday, bringing to a dozen the number of people slain so far while preparing for the landmark presidential vote.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military urged the Afghan government to take "immediate action" to find those behind recent deadly attacks on relief workers that have further restricted reconstruction efforts.

At least 30 militants shot at the jeeps from the joint Afghan-U.N. electoral body on Friday as they passed through Char Cheno, a district of central Uruzgan province, Gov. Jan Mohammed Khan told The Associated Press.

Khan said Hassan Khan and Khathari Jan, two members of a

team registering voters for the joint Afghan-U.N. electoral commission, were killed and all four vehicles destroyed by fire after they were strafed with assault-rifle and machine-gun fire.

Guards in the convoy shot back, forcing the assailants to retreat into the mountains, Khan said. One Taliban fighter was captured, he said, but gave no further details.

Uruzgan and neighboring Zabul have been the scene of some of the worst fighting in recent months, and attacks have increased as the nation gears up for its first post-Taliban election on Oct. 9.

Six American soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously, in Zabul on Friday when insurgents mounted attacks with a mortar and explosives, the U.S. military said. The military on Saturday corrected an initial count of eight wounded soldiers.

In one of the attacks, insurgents attacked a 10-vehicle con-

voy near Daychopan, a notorious trouble spot, with a truck-mounted mortar. One vehicle was hit, wounding four soldiers, Maj. Scott Nelson, an American spokesman, said. U.S. troops returned fire, wounding and capturing two of the assailants before the rest retreated.

Two of the soldiers were treated and returned to duty. The other two were in stable condition and would be flown to a military hospital in Germany, Nelson said.

Rebels also set off a roadside bomb near Zabul's provincial capital, Qalat, as another Humvee was passing. Two soldiers were injured, but soon returned to duty.

The U.S. military said two U.S. soldiers and an Afghan interpreter died Saturday when their Humvee hit an improvised explosive device south of Ghazni. One soldier who was injured in the blast is in stable condition at the Kandahar Airfield hospital. Names of the troops killed will be released pending next-of-kin notifications.

Twenty-one American soldiers have died in action in Afghanistan this year, already the worst tally for the U.S. military since it entered the country in 2001.

The toll on aid workers is higher still, after the execution-style slaying Tuesday of two Afghans from the German relief agency Malteser Germany in southeastern Pakia province brought the total to 24. It was unclear who carried out the killing, but aid officials have dismissed suggestions that the motive was robbery.

The incident follows the June 2 killing of five workers from Medecins Sans Frontieres in a previously peaceful northwestern province which prompted the medical relief group to withdraw from Afghanistan after 24 years.

MSF (Doctors Without Borders in English) said it was dismayed at the failure to arrest local commanders suspected in the killing and the U.S. military said Saturday that it too expected more.

"Senseless acts of violence like

Weapons cache found

Coalition soldiers on patrol north of Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan, found a large weapons cache Thursday, according to a news release from the U.S. Central Command's Kabul Press Center. Among the items found were one 107 mm rocket, a dozen 107 mm mobile rocket pods, various land mines, AK-47 assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, 82 mm mortar rounds and 12.7 mm ammunition.

Explosive ordnance detachment soldiers were dispatched to the area to dispose of the cache, the release stated.

From staff reports

the ones against Malteser and Medecins Sans Frontieres ... require immediate and deliberate action to bring those responsible to justice," Nelson said.

Malteser Germany and the U.N. refugee agency have suspended operations in the region.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.

'Renegades' invite the fight in Iraq

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

BAQUBA, Iraq — Patrolling the streets of Baquba — where makeshift bombs are as common as daily power outages — is no easy task. But for the "Renegades" of 3rd Platoon, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, it's all in a day's work.

"It's part of everyday life now," said Pfc. Sammy Daniels. "You wake up, get ready and go."

The soldiers realize what their presence on the city streets means.

"We go out there to provide a target," said Spc. Michael Phillips. "It's the only way to find them ... to get them out of hiding so we can fight them."

The Renegades, out of Bamberg, Germany, and based at Forward Operating Base Gabe, are holding their own against insurgents. In 228 missions in the last three months, the platoon hasn't lost a single soldier.

The soldiers said they have succeeded by keeping an eye peeled for anything out of the ordinary, and constantly asking, "What if?" "While you're out there, you try to predict what could happen," said Sgt. Chris Thyson said. "Like, 'What if a car bomb came around the corner right now?'"

Although some of the unit's soldiers have been injured by roadside bombs, the soldiers know car bombs will cause a lot more than injury.

"[Car bombs] are the real danger," said Spc. Kyle Brooks. "I'm always looking at vehicles and checking for signs that it could be a [car bomb]."

The unit's up-armored Humvees provide adequate protection against the makeshift bombs, said Sgt. Brandon Ancar.

But "with a [car bomb] packed with 1,000 pounds of explosives ... there's not much left," Phillips said.

Halfway through their rotation in Iraq, the soldiers speak of the dangers almost as if they are immune. But it wasn't always that way.

"When we first got here, everyone was on edge," said Spc. Jason Baker. "Now, it's second nature."

The soldiers say they have seen some interesting situations, and been in some firefights. But things have calmed down since April, a month that saw many attacks across Iraq that killed many U.S. servicemembers.

The soldiers prefer not to talk about the bad times. In fact, most won't even tell their families about what they've seen.



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Above: The "Renegades" from Bamberg, Germany-based 3rd Platoon, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, pose in front of the lead vehicle Tuesday before going out on a mission in Baquba, Iraq. Below: The Renegades roll out on a convoy Tuesday from Forward Operating Base Gabe in Baquba.

"They see enough of what's happening here on the news; I don't want to add to their worries," Phillips said.

"I let my wife know that I'm OK whenever and however I can," Ancar said. "But I don't need to tell her exactly what I'm doing out on these patrols."

The code of silence also helps the soldiers cope with what they've seen.

"What happens outside the gate stays outside the gate," Phillips said. "You have to try to not think about it and not dwell on it."

And take it one day at a time.

"Any day you come back is a good day," Daniels said.

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@mail.strips.esd.mil



Pakistan launches manhunt

Security forces search for 2 alleged al-Qaida operatives

BY MUNIR AHMAD

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani security forces acting on a tip are looking for two alleged north African al-Qaida operatives, a senior government official said Saturday, seeking an official breakthrough against Osama bin Laden's terror network.

Identified as Abu Farj, a Libyan, and Hamza, from Egypt, the pair are believed to be close associates of Ahmed Khalifa Ghailani, a Tanzanian indicted for his role in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa.

The two suspects, about whom authorities refused to give further details, have been on the run in Pakistan since Ghailani and a Pakistani computer expert Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan were captured in two separate raids in July in eastern Pakistan.

It was not immediately clear when and from where Farj and Hamza entered Pakistan and what they were doing here. The tip about their presence came from Khan, a senior government official said.

"Yes, our security agencies are looking for Abu Farj and Hamza,

but I have no details," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Another security official confirmed that the country's intelligence agents were searching for the pair.

Pakistan is a key ally of the United States in its war on terror. Working closely with their American counterparts, the country's security officials have arrested about 20 suspects in less than a month.

The first success came on July 13 when Pakistani security officials captured Khan, who later led them to Ghailani and several other suspects. Khan's computer contained photographs of potential targets in the United States and Britain, including Heathrow airport and underpasses that run beneath buildings in London.

The information gleaned has been shared by Pakistan with several countries, including the United States and Britain.

However, Pakistani officials won't say whether the information passed on to Britain helped authorities there capture 12 terrorist suspects, including Abu Eisa al-Hindi or Abu Musa al-Hindi,

who is believed to be a senior member of al-Qaida and had been plotting an attack on Heathrow.

Britain's Metropolitan Police refused to say whether al-Hindi was among those arrested, and Pakistani officials had no information about the reported link.

On Saturday, Pakistani official said Khan and Ghailani were "co-operating" with them.

"Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, in the presence of Pakistani investigators, sent some e-mails to some al-Qaida men, and he received the answer," said a third security official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

He gave no other details. It was not clear how close Pakistan is to capturing more terror suspects.

Since last month's crackdown on terror suspects, Pakistan has confirmed the arrest of Ghailani who was captured along with two South Africans, Feroz Ibrahim and Zubair Ismail during a July 25 raid on a home in the eastern city of Gujrat.

On Friday, Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said in an interview that he hoped the recent arrests would eventually lead authorities to bin Laden, but cautioned against over-optimism.

GI convicted of killing Iraqi gets three years

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A U.S. soldier who shot a handcuffed Iraqi cower in the back of the head has been convicted in Iraq of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to three years in prison.

Pfc. Edward Richmond, convicted Thursday, also was given a dishonorable discharge from the Army, according to the Army.

Richmond, 20, of Gonzales, La., had initially been charged with unpremeditated murder, which carries a maximum life sentence, for shooting the man on Feb. 28 near Taal Al Jai.

An Army court-martial panel in Tikrit made up of five officers and five enlisted soldiers reduced the charge to voluntary manslaughter and returned the sentence.

The sentence also reduces Richmond's rank to private and calls for forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

Sgt. Jeffrey Waruch testified Wednesday that he and Richmond were ordered to detain all Iraqi males in the village following a raid, and that the cowering, Muhamad Husain Kadir, initial-

ly resisted when they tried to pull his hands behind his back, according to the Army statement, which was first reported by Honolulu newspapers.

Waruch said he led Kadir away after cuffing him. According to the Army, Richmond shot Kadir in the back of the head from about six feet away after the man stumbled.

Richmond testified that he didn't know Kadir's hands were secured behind his back and said he thought the Iraqi would hurt the other soldier.

But he admitted that he never saw Kadir with a weapon, the Army statement said.

In a June interview with The Honolulu Advertiser, Richmond said Kadir lunged at his partner.

Richmond, one of only a few U.S. soldiers to face court-martial on a murder charge in the Iraq war, is a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, a unit of the 25th Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which left Hawaii in January for yearlong deployment to Iraq.

He will be taken to Kuwait before being ordered to a military confinement facility.

Coming to your FIRSTRUN Theater!

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THE MANHUNTER CANDIDATE

Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

Adams	24-30 Sep
Aviano	17-23 Sep
Bahenhausen	17-23 Sep
Barf	13-19 Sep
Bamberg	20-26 Aug
Baumholder	3-9 Sep
Biburg	17-23 Sep
Camp Doha	3-9 Sep
Carmstadt	10-16 Sep
Oxheim	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Friedberg	24-30 Sep
Giebelstadt	10-16 Sep
Grafenwehr	20-26 Aug
Hann	13-19 Sep
Heidelberg	20-26 Aug
Hohenfels	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Kitzingen	3-9 Sep
Kosovo	08-14 Oct
Lakenheath	20-26 Aug
Manheim	13-19 Aug
Mildenhall	13-19 Aug
Ramstein Hercules	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Ramstein Nightingale	20-26 Aug
Rein Main	3-9 Sep
Spangdahlem	10-16 Sep
Tuzla	24-30 Sep
Vaihingen	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Vicenza	24-30 Sep
Vittek	13-19 Aug
Vogelweh	13-19 Aug
Wiesbaden	20-26 Aug
Wuerzburg	13-19 Aug

THEATERS

WASHINGTON STREEP SCHREIBER

THE MANHUNTER CANDIDATE

During the first Gulf War two soldiers are taken prisoner & brainwashed into becoming assassins by the enemy. They return home as heroes, though Marco is troubled by dreams and vague memories of his brainwashing. Eventually, Marco remembers what has happened to him and tries to get to Raymond Shaw, who is running for office, to convince him of what he's remembered.

R RESTRICTED GP
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

R RESTRICTED GP
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

Blindness leaves G's vision, future unclear

Eye injuries par for the course at Landstuhl, life-changing for patients

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

LANDSTUHL, Germany — "Am I gonna lose my eye?" Spc. Xavier Pastchol asked.

"I'll have to look at it before I decide that," said Dr. (Col.) Todd Hess, an ophthalmologist at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Hess peeled the white tape, gauze and silver patch off Pastchol's left eye. Pastchol winced when the last piece of tape came off. The eye was swollen shut.

Small drops of blood oozed from swaths of raw skin on his jaw, where pieces of a roadside bomb had hit him two days earlier in Iraq.

"They took shrapnel out of my face. Some little pieces were left, but they said that wouldn't be a problem," Pastchol told Hess.

Hess left ear-

drum was ruptured in the blast, but he could still hear — though he had to tilt his head a bit sometimes.

A thin piece of bloody gauze hung from a hole made by a piece of shrapnel in Pastchol's left temple.

Military doctors in Baghdad had stitched up a laceration in his eyeball, which was sliced open by shrapnel even though Pastchol was wearing sunglasses and goggles when the bomb went off.

His forearms were peppered with red holes the size of gravel. Just above the wounds on his left arm, his daughters' names were tattooed: "Deshaemic" and "Latalley."

Hess took his scope and pointed a bluish beam at Pastchol's eye, which the soldier opened as far as he could. The slit between his eyelids was as red as a setting sun.

"I can see that light," Pastchol said, a hint of hope in his voice.

On the mend

Pastchol, 30, arrived in Germany just after 6 a.m., after a first flight. A bus took him from Ramstein Air Base to the hospital in Landstuhl.

Seven soldiers lifted his stretcher from the bus to a gurney. He smelled the sweet, clean morning air.

"I know this ain't Iraq," he told them.

Pastchol was one of 32 ill and injured troops from Iraq and Afghanistan brought to the hospital on July 28. Four, including Pastchol, had battle injuries.

More than 16,995 patients from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom — most from Iraq — have been treated there since 2001, hospital officials said.

"I knew he was coming since yesterday," said Sgt. 1st Class Arturo Garcia, a liaison for the 1st Cavalry Division who was at Pastchol's hospital room door within minutes of his arrival.

Pastchol's 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard, is attached to the division.

Garcia's job was to make sure injured 1st Cav troops got everything they needed while at Landstuhl. Every day, the commanding general in Iraq got a report of each soldier's status.

Garcia had already tracked six other 1st Cav soldiers who arrived at the hospital that day, and it was only 8:15 a.m.

"There has never been a day when we don't have at least one [1st Cav] patient," Garcia said.

By 9 a.m., Pastchol was sent to the eye clinic, where he sat more than an hour in the waiting room.

In his blue hospital gown and slippers. The clinic was jammed with patients in civilian clothes and in uniform. Fidgety small children and fussy babies, including twins in a double stroller, gave the clinic a playground buzz. Doctors called patient after patient back to the examination rooms before Pastchol.

It was about 48 hours since he'd been attacked in Iraq.

Taking stock

At 9 a.m. July 26, Pastchol's convoy was heading to Camp Gunslinger, north of Baghdad, to link up with another unit.

Once his leave started in two days, Pastchol would be headed back to the arms of his wife, Tiffany, his daughters, his son Jalen, 1, and his mother, Lorine.

But before he got back to Magnolia, Ark., he had to man the gun turret of his Humvee. Spc. Brian Teague drove and Sgt. Jermell Daniel, the truck commander, rode shotgun. Three other Humvees were in the convoy, with Pastchol's bringing up the rear.

An Iraqi driver kept bringing his car up to the Humvee's bumper and Pastchol was trying to wave him off. The car finally pulled off and Pastchol started to relax.

"I was just going back to sit down and boom!" Pastchol said, describing the concussion.

Dazed, Pastchol got out of the Humvee on his own, and the other soldiers scrambled out to pursue security.

"You must be some kind of superhero," a buddy told him, because Pastchol was standing up. But before the second time he'd been injured in Iraq. In June, a mortar attack peppered him with shrapnel. This time, Daniels kept him unconscious as the convoy raced to find some medical care.

While Pastchol told his story from his hospital bed the day after he arrived, Spc. William Wilson came into his room. Wilson, also of the 153rd's Company D, was at Landstuhl for a hernia operation and heard Pastchol was in the hospital.

"You the gunner now. Keep



PHOTOS BY MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Xavier Pastchol chats with Spc. William Wilson at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany. Pastchol was in the hospital in July recovering from a roadside bomb attack in Iraq, and Wilson was there for hernia surgery. Both are with Company D, 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment of the Arkansas National Guard.

your head open," he told Wilson.

Wilson later said no one from his unit had been killed in battle so far, but many had been injured.

The two soldiers talked about how they happened to be in the hospital at the same time.

"We always said, 'Run together, die together,'" Wilson said.

With his right eye, Pastchol looked down at his otherwise sound body stretched out on the hospital bed.

"I'm just a lucky man to be here like this," he said.

"You're damn right you are," Wilson, 27, of Camden, Ark., said.

"I could easily be dead," Pastchol said.

Life ahead

On that first day in the hospital, Hess left the examination room for a minute. Pastchol got up and stared at the mirror, seeing his damaged left eye for the first time.

Hess came back to say that Pastchol would have to go back to the waiting room because his charts hadn't arrived.

"Am I gonna lose it, doc?" Pastchol asked again.

"I don't think you'll lose it, but you'll have to have a number of other surgeries," Hess said. "You may not see as well out of this eye, and it may not look as nice as the other eye. But I don't think you'll lose it."

Pastchol went back to the waiting room. In a few minutes, he was asleep in his chair.

Back home in Magnolia, Pastchol played semi-pro football as a strong safety for the Arkansas Extrats. He then served four years' active duty in the Army before going into the Guard. He was two days away from ending his commitment when his unit de-



Col. Todd Hess, an ophthalmologist at Landstuhl, examines Pastchol's eye, which was sliced open by shrapnel. Pastchol's jaw was also damaged, and his arms were pitted with wounds.

played to Iraq.

"No, I'm not gonna stay in," he said, without being asked.

He thought back to the day barely a week before when everything in his life changed.

"I don't see any other way to prevent it," Pastchol said. "I was just doing my job." As a gunner, he said, he knew he was a target. But he had the firepower to protect the others.

"It's like a football game. Either you score or you lose," Pastchol said.

Now, he wondered what was in store for him back home.

"If I can't see, I might not be able to perform my job," he said. Pastchol operates a wood planer. "If I can't hear, that will be dangerous."

Whatever happens, Pastchol says he'll be prepared. A Baptist, Pastchol believes that God has a plan for him, and that's why he's still alive. After seeing his family, the first thing he plans to do is go

to church.

"Don't nobody keep you alive, but God," he said.

Before he left, Pastchol saw Hess every day until he left the hospital July 31 for Fort Hood, Texas, where the 1st Cavalry Division is based.

Since May, Hess said, the eye clinic has treated more than 2,000 patients wounded downrange. Of those, 178 had punctured eyeballs. On the day Pastchol arrived, Hess seemed like he was sprinting from patient to patient.

"He is just another patient, and you have to remain objective and go through the checklist and not get upset by what you see," Hess, 43, said of Pastchol during a brief lull in appointments the next day.

He said he wasn't sure whether Pastchol would be able to see again in his left eye.

"That's why God gave us two," Hess said.

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Turkish company to stop operating in Iraq

BY SUZAN FRASER

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — A Turkish company said Saturday it was pulling out of Iraq after Turkish television broadcast a video purportedly showing a kidnapped Turkish truck driver in Iraq repeatedly urging fellow truckers not to come to the country.

A newscaster said his captors threatened to behead the man unless his company withdrew from Iraq within 48 hours.

Hasan Tarhan, a partner in the Atahan Lojistik international transportation company, which employs the driver, released a statement saying the company was pulling out of Iraq, becoming the latest in a string of Turkish companies to declare they are terminating operations in Iraq to secure the release of kidnapped staff.

"Because of the events, our company announces that we have stopped all activity within the borders of Iraq and that we declare that we, in no way, shall be taking part in transportation operations" in Iraq, the statement read.

"All we hope is that our driver, Tahsin Top, is released as soon as possible and is safely returned to his country," it said. The country's truckers association decided to halt deliveries to the American military in Iraq following the murder of a Turkish hostage, Murat Yuce, in Iraq earlier this week. Three other companies, whose employees were being missing or kidnapped, also said they were ceasing business in Iraq in the hopes of rescuing the workers.

An al-Qaida-linked militant group in



Relatives and neighbors gather in Ankara, Turkey, to console Makbule Yuce, fifth from right, the mother of Turkish driver Murat Yuce, who was kidnapped and killed in Iraq. On Saturday, a video that aired on Turkish television showed another hostage begging drivers from Turkey to stop hauling items in Iraq. In response, the company employing the hostage said it would pull out of Iraq.

Iraq released two Turkish truck drivers on Wednesday after the companies said they were pulling out of Iraq.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry said Friday that five Turks were reported missing in Iraq, including three people believed to have been kidnapped. The statement said Turkey had enlisted the help of "certain Iraqi circles" to secure release of those kid-

napped or to find the missing. It was not clear if the man shown on the video is one the missing Turks.

In the video shown on Turkish TVS, the driver, identified as Tahsin Abdurrahman Top, is shown sitting on a floor with black-clad masked gunmen standing behind him holding rifles to his head. A man is seen sitting next to him, reading from a sheet of paper in Arabic.

"Don't come, don't come for America... They are killing, they are slaughtering, they are doing all sorts of dirty things. Please, my driver colleagues, don't come," the man is heard saying. "Look at me, look at the state I'm in."

"America is our enemy, Iraq is our brother," he says, visibly tense and agitated.

The video then shows the man holding Turkish identity papers — a passport, driver's license and national identity card.

Al-Jazeera reported that the group holding the Turkish truck driver calls itself "The Brigades of Sheikh Abdul Qader al-Gilani."

Some 1,800 trucks bring supplies to Iraq, including fuel, electronics and household goods, every day. Some 200 to 300 trucks, owned by more than a dozen Turkish companies, haul fuel, food and other supplies to U.S. forces. But the country's truckers association decided to halt deliveries to the American military in Iraq following the murder of Yuce.

A video posted on the Internet last week showed Iraqi insurgents shooting and killing Yuce, an employee of the Ankara-based Bilintur company that was providing laundry services to a Jordanian company in Iraq. His body still hasn't been recovered, and another Turk who was traveling with Yuce is still missing.

Bilintur said it was withdrawing from Iraq in hopes of saving the other, missing employee.

Turkey's Foreign Ministry has been holding a series of meetings with transportation companies and groups to discuss measures to protect the truckers.

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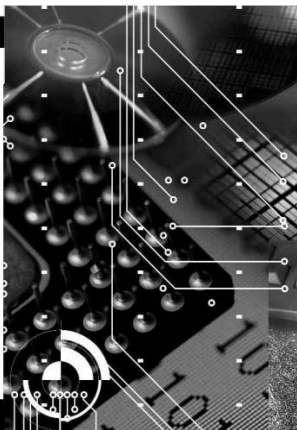
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STRIPES INTERVIEW

Kerry discusses his vision for military

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

SMITHVILLE, Mo. — At a campaign stop to roll out his plan to manage the nation's energy needs, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., told supporters at a Missouri farm that his administration would never send the U.S. military to war without a plan to win the peace.

On a picturesque farm north of Kansas City, the Democratic hopeful and running mate Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., spoke of reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and answered questions from the 100-plus supporters on logs, health care and campaign promises versus real change.

But Kerry made repeated references to the war in Iraq, stressing the need for support from allies and deliberation before sending troops to fight.

"John [Edwards] and I are going to put in place the principle, very simple: No young American in uniform should ever be held hostage to America's dependence on oil in the Middle East."

Kerry sat down with Stripes afterward to discuss the war, the stresses on the military and changes he would make.

Stripes: You said during your speech that never again would U.S. troops be hostage to a lousy energy policy —

Kerry: What I said is, I didn't say never again, I said I don't want them to be hostage.

Stripes: You think that's what's going on now?

Kerry: No. That's not related directly to the oil ... and I never suggested that it is.

Stripes: The charge is out there that Republicans are much better suited to handle defense issues. How do you counter that?

Kerry: My record counters that, and my friends counter that. [The Bush team has] conducted a backdoor draft by the stop-loss provisions and the lengthy deployments. People have been overextended and stretched too thin.

They went into Iraq in a brilliant military strategy, which we all adopted and supported, but they didn't have a plan to win the peace. They didn't bring other [countr]ies to our side. They didn't give our troops all the equipment — the body armor and the armored Humvees and things they need and deserve.

That's a great tradition of Democratic presidents who've led us in war. From Franklin Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, to President Kennedy — Bill Clinton, who managed to do Kosovo without any casualties at all.

Stripes: Tommy Franks has said that we should be in Iraq for

three to five years. [Is that] a fair estimate?

Kerry: I think that that estimate depends on the success of my diplomacy. I will be more successful than George Bush, and I think any timetables now will depend on a new president, and a new credibility to re-create the relationships that this administration has broken.

Stripes: So you guarantee that we'll have a substantial reduced force within a year? Two years?

Kerry: I can guarantee that ... within my first term, I will have a substantial reduction in troops [in Iraq], yes.

Stripes: Is 17,000 [troops] enough in Afghanistan?

Kerry: No.

Stripes: Would you put more Americans in there first? While your diplomacy works?

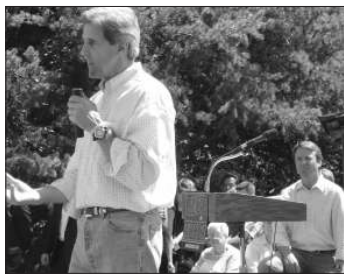
Kerry: No, I'd like to expand the NATO presence there, and I'd like to expand other countries' involvements. But I do think that this administration is diverting from the real war on terror, which was in Afghanistan against al-Qaida, to Iraq, and I think it's cost us dearly.

Stripes: Increasing end strength, even the 40,000 soldiers that you're talking about, that takes time. We have a readership of young troops in the field right now, and I think they want to know what you're going to do immediately to help their situation.

Kerry: I will see a much greater level of both NATO and other-nation involvement in the training of Iraqi troops and Iraqi security [forces]. We'll provide greater Iraqi security on the ground and reduce the burden on our own troops ... so it's not an American occupation. And that will greatly reduce the risk to the soldiers in Iraq.

Stripes: Would you reach across the aisle [to the Republican Party] for a secretary of defense?

Kerry: It's very possible. But I'll tell you this: I will have it a prerequisite that the secretary of defense work effectively with the professional military, listens to their advice, and if you're going to disagree with it, is respectful in the way we DO disagree with it.



PATRICK DICKSON/Stars and Stripes

With running mate John Edwards looking on, Sen. John Kerry speaks to farmers Friday at Jim and Ruth Nelson's farm in Smithville, Mo. Kerry unveiled his plans for renewable fuels, such as corn-based ethanol, to help reduce America's reliance on foreign oil.

that we don't ruin careers over advice honestly spoken in an honest way to a Congressional committee. And I think the military deserves an invitation of their advice, not a chilling effect to it.

Stripes: In the transformation plan outlined by [Defense] Secretary [Donald] Rumsfeld and others in the administration, they're talking about moving troops out of Europe east, south into Eastern Europe and Africa. Smaller lily-pad bases, closer to the hot spots. Would you continue that trend?

Kerry: I'm going to get a re-evaluation when I get in. What I've called for is to stop the BRAC [Base Realignment And Closure] process temporarily; I wanna make certain that we are re-evaluating precisely what America's

military needs are in this new structure.

And my hope is, that with my diplomacy, we can be more effective with North Korea. We might be able to reduce the deployment in that part of the world, that's been much too similar for 50 years now.

Stripes: Do you support an overall reduction in troops in South Korea?

Kerry: As an ultimate goal, but not as an immediate step.

Stripes: Let's move over to pay issues. The civilian-military pay gap right now is

about 5 percent. The law is that GIs should get half a percent more than their civilian counterparts in the federal government. Would you continue the plus-0.5 percent raise —

Kerry: Absolutely. You've got to raise pay. Particularly for entry-level enlisted.

Stripes: So you would target raises?

Kerry: I'm looking at it.

Stripes: What about Serviceman's Group Life Insurance?

Kerry: You ought to give it to them automatic [without monthly payments into the system] and it ought to be raised.

Stripes: [Automatic] for all \$250,000?

Kerry: You bet. Why not? I mean, if you're in a limited war situation, it's not asking too much for the United States of America to guarantee an appropriate level of life insurance, cost-free, to those who are willing to put themselves on the line. And I think that anything less is almost an insult.

Stripes: I'm a GI overseas. Why do I want to vote for John Kerry?

Kerry: Because I'm going to do a better job of making America safe. I think that the folks who are deployed would be better served by a commander in chief who knows what it means to be deployed.

For a full transcript of Sen. Kerry's remarks, go to <http://stripes.com/news/080804/kerry.html>

E-mail Pat Dickson at: dicksonp@stripes.com

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38th CSC trains leaders to deploy more effectively

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — A center dedicated to training Air Force leaders how to operate in an expeditionary environment was activated during a ceremony last week.

The Expeditionary Leadership Program is meant to give mid-level officers and enlisted airmen the tools they need to deploy more effectively, said Col. Richard Weathers, who officiated the ceremony. Weathers commands the 38th Combat Support Wing, the newest wing in U.S. Air Forces in Europe.

The leadership program is managed by members of the 38th Combat Support Center. Two training programs already have taken place at the center, located at the 435th Construction and Training Squadron's compound at Ramstein. A new class starts next week.

Col. Charles Weis assumed command of the 38th CSC at a ceremony on Thursday.

"I believe the [center] will better prepare our mid-level leaders to perform in deployed locations," Weiss said in an Air Force news release. "We'll continue to gather lessons learned from Operation Iraqi Freedom and ongoing operations to improve our curriculum and field training exercises."

USAFE airmen will attend courses at the new center before their Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotations, Weiss said. In addition, they'll participate in field training exercises that mimic real-world events, such as mortar attacks and airplane crashes. Other Air Force specialties, in fields such as intelligence and logistics, also will be brought in to participate in the scenarios, he said.

Allied nations also may eventually send troops to the center.

E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcEntee@mail.esr.af.mil



Families of some Europe-based troops won't see an increase in child care services in the coming year after U.S. Army Europe commander Gen. B.B. Bell successfully petitioned the Army to hold child and youth services fees at the current levels in Europe. The average cost for daycare for Category 1 families will remain at roughly \$190 per month.

LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes

USAREUR gives break on child care fees

Stars and Stripes

While child-care costs will be going up throughout the Army for the next year, parents in Europe won't have to shell out any extra cash for Child and Youth Services programs.

Families are getting an exemption to the Army-wide, 3 percent fee increases for the 2004/2005 school year for CYS programs because most of the approximately 70,000 Europe-based soldiers either are deployed to Iraq or returning from deployments.

The reprieve comes after the U.S. Army Europe commander, Gen. B.B. Bell, got a waiver from the Army to help relieve family financial burdens. Most soldiers assigned to the Wiesbaden-based 1st Armored Division returned recently from 15 months in the Middle East. Soldiers under V Corps, based in Heidelberg, returned earlier this year. The Würzburg-based 1st Infantry Division currently is deployed to Iraq.

Bell requested and received a waiver from the vice chief of staff of the Army. USAREUR is offsetting the difference by diverting \$2.8 million to subsidize the increase for the Installation Management Agency-Europe Region CYS program, according to a CYS news release.

CYS fees include myriad programs from child-care to youth sports, said Sonia Bonet, child and youth services chief for Installation Management Agency-Europe.

For example, full-day care at USAREUR Child Development Center for families in Category 1 (gross incomes between \$0 and \$28,000) is \$190 a month, or \$47.50 a week. That fee will remain the same for families in Europe, while rising 3 percent for families outside Europe.

The fee structure will be reviewed for the 2005/2006 school year, said Millie Waters, a USAREUR spokeswoman.

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At right, a close-up view of a custom painted Chevy van at the Cars are the Stars Street Machine National at Pulkasi Barracks in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Saturday. The event, which is free to visitors, features more than 300 vehicles competing in five categories — stock, street machine, pro street, custom and street rod — and runs through 5 p.m. Sunday. Clockwise from far right: Visitors check out a 1951 Mercury Sport Sedan; Dan, left, and Gaby Boring take a close look at the engine of a 1954 Ford Popular, nicknamed the "Banana Kid"; visitors check out a 1987 Lamborghini Countach 5000 QV.



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Cars are the stars



MIA remains now home

WASHINGTON — The body of a Texas soldier missing in action from the Vietnam War has been identified and returned to his family for burial with military honors, the Pentagon said Friday.

He was identified as Chief Master Sgt. Luther L. Rose, of Howe, Texas, a gunner whose plane crashed in Laos.

On June 23, 1966, Rose was on an AC-47 gunship on a nighttime armed reconnaissance mission over southern Laos when a crew member radioed that the craft was on fire. Witnesses reported it crashed into a wooded area 30 miles northeast of Tchepone, a Laotian town near the Marine fire base at Khe Sanh, Vietnam, the Defense Department said Friday. No parachutes were observed from the plane, which carried a six-member crew, the statement said.

A joint team of U.S. and Lao specialists traveled to a suspected crash site in October 1994, and a villager took them to an area where aircraft wreckage, materials related to crew members including a crewman's identification tag were found. The remains of Rose and other crew members were recovered in 1995 by a joint U.S.-Lao excavation team and underwent a wide array of forensic testing at the military laboratory in Hawaii.

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IN THE STATES

Alerts are 'grim reminder' of U.S. threats, Bush says

The Associated Press

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — The heightened state of alert in New York, Newark, N.J., and Washington is "a grim reminder" of terrorist threats that still face the United States, President Bush said Saturday.

The president is taking a short break from his re-election campaign to attend the wedding of his nephew, George P. Bush, son of the Florida governor near the family compound in Kennebunkport.

He defended the elevated warnings in the face of criticism they were based on old intelligence.

"Information from arrests in Pakistan, taken together with information gathered by the U.S. intelligence community, indicated that al-Qaida has caused financial targets in New York, New Jersey

and Washington, D.C., and has recently updated their targeting information," Bush said in his weekly radio address.

"This information was buttressed by other information we already had," He did not elaborate on the "other information."

Bush is anxious to keep national security, a political strong suit, front and center in his re-election campaign. There are signs that Democratic challenger John Kerry could be chipping away at Bush's advantage on the issue.

In an Associated Press poll conducted Tuesday through Thursday, 43 percent said Kerry would do a better job of protecting the country — a gain of 8 percentage points from a similar survey in March.

Bush still has the advantage on the issue, with 52 percent saying

the Republican incumbent would do better in protecting the nation.

Bush opened the address, broadcast as he vacationed at his family's summer home on the Maine coast, by saying, "My most solemn duty as president is to protect our country."

He devoted his message to outlining steps his administration has taken since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"We have pursued terrorists across the world, destroying their leadership and denying them sanctuaries," Bush said.

"We are working with other governments to break up terror cells and stop planned attacks, on virtually every continent."

But, he said, "The elevation of the threat level in New York, New Jersey and Washington, D.C. is a grim reminder of the dangers we continue to face."



FBI and other law enforcement officials surround the home of Dr. Kenneth Berry, which they raided in Wellsville, N.Y., on Thursday, while investigating the deadly 2001 anthrax attacks.

Bioterror expert denies role in anthrax attacks

The Associated Press

DOVER TOWNSHIP, N.J. — A bioterrorism expert whose homes were raided by FBI agents investigating the anthrax attacks denied he was guilty of anything, authorities said.

Dr. Kenneth M. Berry told police that he had nothing to do with anthrax, Point Pleasant Beach Police Chief Daniel DePolio said in a news conference Friday.

On Thursday, more than three dozen agents, some in protective suits, combed through two homes listed in property records as Berry's past and present addresses in Wellsville, N.Y., a bucolic village of 5,000 residents near the Pennsylvania line.

About 250 miles southeast, the Jersey shore home of Berry's parents also was searched, and neighbors said investigators brought out bulky garbage bags and towed away two vehicles, later returning one. There was no sign of further police activity there Friday.

Berry, who reportedly works in the emergency room of a suburban Pittsburgh hospital, has not been connected to the attacks. The FBI said the public was not in immediate danger, but declined to say what agents were seeking.

"It's an ongoing investigation," FBI spokesman Jeff Killeen told The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. A neighbor said FBI agents visited Berry's former neighborhood in Masontown, Pa., where he lived until about 1997, in late May or early June.

The searches came nearly

three years after five people were killed and 17 fell ill when anthrax-laced envelopes were mailed to government offices and news media, triggering even more fear in a country already shaken by Sept. 11. The anthrax investigation has baffled the government and turned up few leads.

After Thursday's raids, Berry, 46, was charged with assault for allegedly fighting with four family members at a seaside motel in New Jersey, authorities said. The family members required treatment at medical facilities. He was released from jail on \$10,000 bond.

"Apparently, there was a dispute over a cell phone, and it's my understanding that there was a lot of stress from search warrants that were being conducted," DePolio said. In 1997, Berry founded an organization that trains medical professionals to respond to chemical and biological attacks and sought a patent for a system to identify chemical

and biological strikes. He filed a provisional patent for a system in October 2000 and filed the actual patent application Sept. 28, 2001, 10 days after the first anthrax letters were postmarked. He touted the system as an effective way to respond to bioterrorism attacks.

Berry works at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center-McKeesport, hospital officials told Pittsburgh newspapers.

They declined to elaborate on his employment.

Associated Press writers Ben Dobbin in Wellsville, N.Y., and Krista Larson in Trenton contributed to this report.

Pa. officials think recycling is a fine idea

Failing to sort their garbage hits residents in the wallet

BY DAN NEPHIN

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — When Pittsburgh began fining residents earlier this year for not complying with the city's mandatory recycling law, it was venturing into relatively uncharted territory. Few Pennsylvania communities with mandatory recycling laws fine residents.

If city workers don't see bundles of newspapers or the blue bags used for glass, cans and plastic placed outside a home on recycling day, the city will contact the resident about the requirement, said Guy Costa, the public works director.

"If we send you a letter and then you continue not to recycle, then we send you a citation," Costa said, who called the fines a last resort.

The city has issued about 100 citations since stepping up enforcement in the spring. Fines with court costs are \$62.50. A second offense costs more than \$500, though Costa said none have been issued.

Costa said failing to recycle costs the city money. It's paid \$11 a ton for glass, cans and plastics and \$30 a ton for newspaper, Costa said. Statewide, the average cost to take municipal trash to a landfill is about \$57 per ton, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Pittsburgh, like other communities that recycle, also can qualify for performance grants, which help pay for manpower and equipment.

There's a lot of incentives in there for the city and the residents to recycle as much as they can," Costa said. About 40 percent of city households recycle, he said.

While some people have complained about the fines, Costa said he's been getting mostly positive comments.

"The feedback I've been getting is, 'It's about time because I've been recycling and my neighbor hasn't been,'" Costa said.

Recycling became mandatory in 1998 in larger communities in Pennsylvania and has since expand-



Blue bags holding recyclable trash line the sidewalk on Jane street on Pittsburgh's Southside before collectors gathered it on Thursday morning.

ed to many smaller communities. In 2002, the most recent year for which figures are available, the state recycling rate was about 38 percent, said DEP spokesman Tom Rathbun.

Neither the DEP nor the federal Environmental Protection Agency track communities that fine residents for not recycling.

"We just want [recycling communities] to have a successful program," Rathbun said.

A sampling of communities showed fines are not used often.

However, Gene Hejmanowski, the environmental director of Penn Township in York County, isn't above using the stick.

The township has a pay-as-you throw program where residents buy trash bags, which Hejmanowski said is more equitable than every resident paying a flat rate.

Hejmanowski and his crew fan out and check trash bags once residents place them out for pickup.

"If I find a recyclable item in your bag, I leave you with a warning subject to a \$600 [maximum] fine," he said. Likewise, if he finds trash in recycling,

"I run a very tight program. I'm an ex-Marine and I run this like it was Parris Island," Hejmanowski said.

American man faked beheading for video

BY RON HARRIS

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A video aired Saturday that purportedly showed an American being decapitated in Iraq was a hoax.

The man shown in the video, reached by The Associated Press in San Francisco, said he videotaped the staged beheading at his friend's house using fake blood.

Benjamin Vanderford, 22, said he began distributing the video on the Internet months ago in hopes of drawing attention to his one-time campaign for city supervisor. When his political aspirations waned, he thought the video would serve as social commentary.

"It was part of a stunt, but no one noticed it up until now," Vanderford said. "I did this for a couple of reasons. One is to at-

tract attention. But two is to just make a statement on these type of videos and how easily they can be faked."

On the tape, Vanderford sat on a chair in a dark room, his hands behind his back, trembling and rocking back and forth. The tape showed a hand with a knife cutting at the motionless man's neck, but did not show any militants.

"We need to leave this country alone. We need to stop this occupation," he said on the video, adding that he had been offered for exchange with prisoners in Iraq. "Everyone's going to be killed this way."

The videotape was posted on a militant Web site and aired on Arab television Saturday. Vanderford was clad in a T-shirt, not the orange jumpsuit that other hostages have been dressed in.

The video was titled "Abu

Musab al-Zarqawi Slaughters an American." Al-Zarqawi is an al-Qaida linked militant whose group, Tawhid and Jihad, has claimed responsibility for numerous deadly attacks across Iraq, including the beheading of U.S. businessman Nicholas Berg.

Vanderford's video also showed images of disfigured and injured people in Iraq. A recording of the Quran, Islam's holy book, played in the background.

Sipping soda in his kitchen, a shirtless Vanderford said he spliced images he took from a Hamas Web site showing mutilated bodies. He later edited the 55-second video to downgrade the quality so it would look similar to beheading tapes distributed since the war in Iraq began.

He said he understood if relatives of those killed in Iraq thought his stunt was misguided, but he offered no apologies for the hoax.



Benjamin Vanderford, 22, is interviewed at his home in San Francisco on Saturday after a video aired that purportedly showed an American being decapitated in Iraq. Vanderford said he videotaped the staged beheading at his friend's house using fake blood.

Teacher, student from sex case can reunite

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A judge on Friday agreed to lift an order barring Mary Kay Letourneau from contacting Vili Fualau, the former sixth-grade student she was convicted of having sex with when he was a minor.

Fualau, now 21, had challenged the court order, saying he is an adult and can pick his own friends, especially the mother of his two children.

Letourneau was a 34-year-old elementary school teacher in suburban Des Moines and an unhappily married mother of four in 1996, when she began having sex with Fualau.

When Letourneau was arrested in 1997, she was already pregnant with Fualau's daughter. Though Letourneau professed her love for the boy, a judge sentenced her to six months in jail for second-degree child rape, and ordered her to stay away from him.

A month after Letourneau was released, she was caught having sex with Fualau in her car. She was sent to prison for 7 1/2 years, and gave birth to Fualau's second daughter behind bars.

Letourneau was released Wednesday, and was staying with friends at a home in a neighborhood south of Seattle.

The King County Prosecutor's Office did not object to Fualau's motion that the no-contact order be lifted, spokesman Dan



Don't Fualau Friday.

Fualau, who was in New York for an appearance on NBC's "Today" show, told the show that he's looking forward to seeing Letourneau and deciding if they can have a life together.

Letourneau's two daughters with Fualau are now 6 and 7. They have been raised by Fualau's mother, and visited Letourneau in prison.

Her four older children, who live in Alaska with her ex-husband, also visited her.



Letourneau

Dam removal project can move ahead

PORT ANGELES, Wash. — A long-delayed project to remove two dams on the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha River received official approval Friday, clearing the way toward restoring one of the state's most productive salmon rivers.

The city of Port Angeles, the National Park Service and members of the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe signed the agreement Friday to begin work on the \$182 million plan to restore the Elwha.

Approximately 145 dams have been removed in the United States since 1999, but all were smaller than the 108-foot-tall Elwha Dam and the 210-foot-tall Glines Canyon Dam.

"This is going to be a major historic project, removing these two dams and restoring salmon habitat," said Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., who attended the signing.

From The Associated Press

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James is gone, but his song lives

BY HANK STUEVER
The Washington Post

Though he has gone (of apparent natural causes, said Los Angeles police, after a caretaker found him dead in his Universal City home Friday morning), the singer Rick James will always be with us: at club reunions, bar mitzvahs, wedding receptions. He will sing eternally the 1981 R&B dance hit that made him "Super Freak," a wonderful song about a nymphomaniac backstage groupie who is waiting in Room 714 of a hotel somewhere, "with incense, wires and candles — it's such a freaky scene."

Happily, many of us have seen our grandmothers and aunts dance to this song, such is its lasting ubiquity among party disc jockeys-for-hire: "She's a very kinky girl," the song goes. "The kind you don't take home to mother. She will never let your spirits down, once you get her off the street. Ow, girl!" (Now, everyone, please, a toast to the lovely bride and groom.)

This is not an insignificant gift to the world, the joy of one hit song that burns itself into the global pop consciousness, leaving its naughty intention behind and becoming something else, something permanent. James, who was 56, was known in his younger days by the blunt, Cleopatraesque funky braids and tight leather pants he wore, and he certainly had other accomplishments, other songs, other things to do with his life than channel the super freaks. (After all, on the same album as "Super Freak" was "Give It to Me Baby." And he gave us, via his guiding hand as producer in the late 1970s to mid-'80s, the Mary Jane Girls, Teena Marie and Eddie Murphy's No. 2 hit, "Party All the Time.")

Did you know that in one of his first bands, Rick James, having gone AWOL from the Navy, played with Neil Young? (You didn't know. They were called the Mynah Birds, ripping off the Byrds.)

The pop world wasn't the same after singer Rick James introduced "Super Freak."

AP

Probably what you do know is that James was for a time an actual super-duper freaky freak, surrounding himself with the proverbial hookers and blow, charged with abduction and assault in 1993, serving two years in a California state prison (the judge called it "a gift" from the jury, which acquitted him or deadlocked on still other charges), emerging in 1996 with a resolve to stage a comeback — which he did, but mostly in a nostalgic, VH1 sort of way.

The comedian Dave Chappelle, in his Comedy Central sketch show, does a Rick James caricature, inspiring people everywhere to walk around and say, "I'm Rick James, bitch!" Rather than bemoan this, James embraced it. According to MTV News, James was talking to Chappelle in June about the comedian playing him in a movie version of his life, based on "Memoirs of a Super Freak," which he'd been writing for years.

In 2002, after he'd recovered from a stroke and hip replacement surgery, he told an interviewer from a financial advice Web site, Bankrate.com, that he used to spend \$7,000 a week on cocaine in the '80s. He also said that he would always be rich, thanks to so many snippets of his oeuvre showing up — with full credit and royalty payment — on hip-hop and rap songs. However, he wasn't a big fan of the new school.

"The majority of them don't have an idea of what it is to entertain a crowd," he complained of today's hip-hop stars in a Washington Post profile in 1998. "Holding on to your [anatomy], holding back and forth with your baseball bat turned backwards, throwing your hands up. ... That ain't [expletive] entertainment."

That's how it is for super freaks. They age and mellow, make parole, and something comes along that strikes them as irredeemably freaky, wrong, dirty — something they themselves would never have done. Thus the freak becomes less super, less freak.

If you leave this world remembered for one pop song, then you've left it in grand enough style: "She says that I'm her all-time favorite" — sing it with me now — "When I make my move to her room, it's the right time. She's never hard to please. ... That girl is pretty kinky, the girl's a super freak."

Rick James didn't want to see anybody sitting down. All y'all on the dance floor, grandmas and rab- his not-so-super freaks, we're doin' it.

Shock jocks on XM

NEW YORK — Shock jocks Opie and Anthony are returning to the airwaves.

The irreverent radio duo, yanked off the air in August 2002 after broadcasting a live account of a couple having sex inside St.

Park's Cathedral in Manhattan, announced Thursday that they would join XM Satellite Radio beginning Oct. 4.

The big difference: On XM, Greg "400k" Hughes and Anthony Cumia will operate free of the Federal Communications Commission restrictions that forced

their ouster from WNYC-FM and the loss of their syndicated radio program. Their show will air weekdays from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., opposite Howard Stern. Fans of O&A will pay an extra \$1.99 per month on top of XM's monthly fee of \$9.99 for the show.

From The Associated Press

Messages of Support

★ I'm a mom of a soldier somewhere in Northern Iraq. I pray daily for all of you to come home safely and quickly. Your doing a great job. Stay safe and keep your heads down. Dawn Brandes

wanted a dog dish to get food. Love, Leslie E. 3rd grade, Rockport, Texas

★ I just want to say thank you for all that the men and women are doing for us. Words would never be enough to express what I feel. I pray for each and every one of you and your family members and for the leader of our country and military. God bless you all.

★ I have recently turned 20, so this is really the first war that I have been old enough to carry an opinion on. I hate to hear these people who are anti-war. I pray for our troops everyday. I wish safety for all of you, although I know that will not be possible. I speak for many when I say that we appreciate everything you are doing and everything you stand for. Thank You!

★ I just wanted to say Thank You for the sacrifice and effort!!!! Watching the men and women of our armed forces makes me PROUD to be an American!!!! You are truly the shining stars and the best that America has to offer!!!!!! Stay safe!!!!!!!

★ To M. Inghram. Daddy don't forget to use your smelly feet to keep you safe. (Whitney) Come home soon daddy I miss you (Nik). Matt, we are all so very proud of all that you are doing for our great nation. We love you and miss you. XOXOXO Teisha

★ Dear Soldier, My name is Leslie E. Thank you for fighting for our freedom. Be careful when you go to war. Why did a dog go to the store? Because he

★ Thank you to our American troops for putting your lives in danger to uphold our ideal of freedom. Nikki V., Boca Raton



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IN THE WORLD

Bosnia mass grave

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Forensic experts said Friday they found a new mass grave in southeast Bosnia believed to contain about 160 bodies of Bos-

nian Muslims killed by Serb forces a decade ago.

The bodies were dumped into a river canyon near the town of Foca, some 45 miles southeast of Sarajevo, at the beginning of the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

According to Sejid Koso of the Bosnian Commission on Missing Persons, 16 victims already have been exhumed from the location. The site was discovered after a survivor told local authorities.

From The Associated Press

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

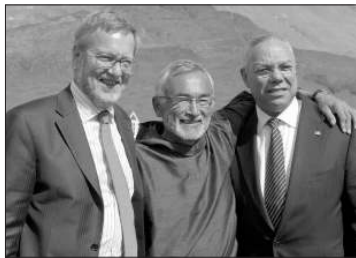
I would especially like to thank Sgt. J. Sawdew (Marines) who was interviewed this morning on G.M.A. He was in a medical unit after having an appendectomy. He stated "I wanted only to get back to his men because he promised to bring them home safely". His Courage, Loyalty and Honor are unwavering. I am so proud of this man and all of the others soldiers who are protecting our freedom. You are a very noble group. God Bless you all, Laura

Sweetheart, Me and Aiden are doing fine. We are so proud of you and your fellow combat medics. There has been such an outpouring of love and support towards the troops serving in the gulf and here at home. Be strong and committed to your mission...this is your time to represent your family, your unit, your country. I have no doubt that you will come home to us, safe and sound. I have cherished everyday that you've been in my life and Aiden loves more than you know. Be safe and Godspeed. T. M. Gonzalez

We all want to let you know that we are behind you 100%. The anti-war/military movement is very very small. Our prayers are with you. Don't ever have the thought that you are not supported and you will have a heroes welcome when you get home. I have a son that just retired from the submarine service after 21 yrs. We never knew what he was doing but we knew he was in "harm's way". What you are doing is so important. Keep your head down. God bless. J. Dickmann.

Words can not express how much we appreciate what you all are doing for our Country. Always remember there are millions of Americans praying for you every minute of the day. Thank You

R. Stonestreet, We are incredibly proud of you! Thank you for your willingness to support this honorable effort! You are in our constant thoughts and prayers! Hope to see you soon! Kevin and Glenna Hendrickson



United States Secretary of State Colin Powell, right, Greenland's Vice Premier Josef Motzfeldt, center, and Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Per Stig Møller signed agreements Friday to upgrade the early-warning radar system at Thule, a Cold War U.S. air base in Greenland.

Nations OK radar system at U.S. base in Greenland

The Associated Press

IGALIKU, Greenland — The United States, Denmark and Greenland signed agreements Friday to upgrade the early-warning radar system at Thule, a Cold War U.S. air base with a crucial role in U.S. plans for an anti-missile defense system.

"Together we will meet the security challenges of the 21st century, from missile defense to international terrorism," Secretary of State Colin Powell said at a ceremony in this village on a fjord.

All 47 residents, give or take a few, turned out, many wearing local costumes. It isn't every day that a world figure comes to this Inuit hamlet.

Greenland's vice premier, Josef Motzfeldt, who signed for the self-governed Danish proto-

torate, said Greenland had no say when the United States and Denmark signed an initial defense agreement in 1951 under NATO's auspices.

He said that accord did not take into consideration the environment or animal life and exposed Greenland to Cold War risks "which we were not allowed to know about."

Now that Greenland has home rule, Motzfeldt said, historians will see Friday as "the day when Greenland took a decisive step toward equality and co-responsibility."

Foreign Minister Per Stig Møller signed for Denmark.

Three documents were signed. One updates the 1951 agreement, the second provides for economic and technical cooperation and the third was aimed at protecting the environment.

Yemeni military pounding rebel leader's mountain lair

BY AHMED AL-HAJ

The Associated Press

SA'DAH, Yemen — Yemeni warplanes and artillery pounded mountain hideouts of an anti-U.S. leader and his followers Friday in a major offensive aimed at ending a six-week conflict that has killed at least 500 people.

Yemen's army chief of staff, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Ali al-Khatami, said government troops have taken control of locations in the Jabal Maraan mountains, outside the northern town of Sa'dah, where followers of Hussein Badr Eddin al-Houthi were holed up.

Al-Houthi, a Shiite Muslim, has

wide religious and tribal backing in this impoverished country and has long opposed U.S. involvement in Middle Eastern affairs and Israel's conflict with the Palestinians. His fierce anti-U.S. positions — fomented through mosque speeches and demonstrations — have caused problems for Yemen's government, which has turned to the United States for military training and assistance to safeguard its borders from infiltration by militants.

Al-Khatami said some soldiers were killed and wounded in fierce fighting late Thursday that continued Friday but that the number of casualties was not immediately available.

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1812 grave sought

KY FRANKFORT — Archaeologists with radar equipment probed a cemetery Wednesday for something that has eluded generations of historians: the unmarked mass grave of 15 Kentuckians massacred during the War of 1812.

"There have been historians who spent a lifetime trying to find out what happened to these remains," said John Trowbridge, director of the Kentucky Military History Museum, who was among those overseeing the project.

Researchers are now banking that modern technology will yield an answer.

The 15 Kentuckians were among casualties of the Battle of Raisin River near present-day Monroe, Mich. Historians say they surrendered to British troops but were handed over to Indians and killed. Mutilated remains were strewn about but eventually buried in Detroit. They were finally returned to Kentucky, in a single box, around 1848.

Hot on the Kid's trail

NM LINCOLN — One of the nation's leading forensic scientists has joined the effort to determine if the saga of Billy the Kid is backed by science.

Henry Lee, director emeritus of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory, has worked on the O.J. Simpson murder trial and the Jon Benet Ramsey case.

Lee arrived at the old Lincoln County courthouse Sunday afternoon.

"This is an extremely interesting case of some historical importance," he said. "That's why I agreed to spend some of my own time to work with them... It's basically a worthwhile project and legitimate."

Lincoln County Sheriff Tom Sullivan, joined by deputy and Captain Mayor Steve Sederwall and DeBaca County Sheriff Gary Graves, launched a probe last year into the Kid's escape from the courthouse in early 1881 and then Sheriff Pat Garrett's slaying of the outlaw later that year.

The investigation aims to clear up questions about the Kid's fate.

Visitors scarce

ME OLD ORCHARD BEACH — Weather, terrorism fears and high gas prices have been keeping visitors away, said Vaughn Simson, executive director of the Maine Tourism Association.

Members of the state's hospitality industry are hoping recent hot and sunny weather will spur a turnaround. Travel experts have predicted an overall 4 percent increase in Maine tourism for 2004.

Snake evades captors

TX BRENHAM — A snake estimated to be long enough to stretch from one side of a street to the other is being hunted by Brenham authorities.

Experts have speculated the snake may be a boa or python whose owner no longer wanted to care for it. Such exotic animals as pets are illegal within the limits of Brenham, a city of 13,500 about 75



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

miles northwest of Houston.

"We're in our third week of trying to capture this snake," Doug Baker, Brenham's public works director, said. "We're being very aggressive in trying to catch it."

City Manager Terry Roberts told The Brenham Banner-Press on Wednesday there have been several sightings of the animal in a brushy, tree-filled creek channel. Officials, however, haven't publicized the snake's presence in case extra attention scared it away.

Memorial recalls 9/11

NJ GLEN ROCK — A memorial to honor the 11 borough residents who died in the World Trade Center attacks will be unveiled on Sept. 11 at Veterans Park. The \$100,000 memorial is designed as a circle of remembrance surrounded by trees and includes a piece of steel beam from Tower One. Names of the victims will be inscribed on a bench. Funds came from public donations and a Forest Service grant.

Henry Lee, director emeritus of the Connecticut State Police Forensic Science Laboratory, has worked on the O.J. Simpson murder trial and the Jon Benet Ramsey case.

Water threatens roads

CA AUBURN — A broken release gate at a Sierra Nevada reservoir sent a wall of water down the Middle Fork of the American River on Thursday morning, threatening a highway and forcing the evacuation of campers along



Tubular!

Byron Lee, 9, holds his nose as he slides out of the center water slide tube at Oscar DuCange city pool in Waco, Texas.

the river.

The sudden release of water from Ralston Reservoir south of Auburn sent a "wall of water three- to four-feet high" down the river, said California Highway Patrol spokesman Tom Marshall.

The CHP was monitoring the muddy water as it approached Highway 49, a major road through the Sierra foothills.

A CHP helicopter flew the length of the canyon, using its public address speakers to warn anyone near the river to flee to higher ground. Authorities warned campers in one riverside site to evacuate.

Alligators fair game

FL SANIBEL — The city council ruled that trappers may now kill large alligators even if the reptiles haven't acted aggressively. The council adopted the policy following a fatal attack last month on a landscaper. The city may hire a trapper to kill an alligator that is more than 4 feet long. Previously, an alligator smaller than 8 feet had to behave aggressively before it could be destroyed.

New residents wanted

NE KENESAW — Kenesaw officials are giving lots away in hopes of attracting new residents to their town of about 860. Adams County Bank fronted a \$135,000 investment in 15 lots in hopes to bring young couples and families to the town. To obtain a lot, interested persons must put down \$500 and have a signed construction contract within six months. The \$500 will be refunded once construction begins.

Illegal injections arrest

GA LAWRENCEVILLE — Verna Deloris Barnett was arrested after authorities raided her home and found evidence she that she gave illegal silicone injections to transvestites. Some transvestites use such procedures to get bigger breasts, wider hips and more prominent cheekbones to look more feminine. Authorities found food-grade sterile silicone, syringes, topical anesthetics and medical waste.

In praise of RVs

IN ELKHART — A \$3 million Recreational Vehicle Hall of Fame is being planned in the city. Construction on the a 65,000-square-foot building will begin in early 2005.

The first phase of the project will include a photo gallery, the RV museum hall and a theater. A second phase will include outside exhibit space as well as a conference and convention facility.

Medical marijuana help

NV LAS VEGAS — Medical Marijuana Consultants of Nevada has become the first in the state to get a medical marijuana license, but will not sell the drug. Instead, the company will advise qualified medical patients on how to obtain it. Owner Bill Kosinski said it took him more than a year to get a registration card to use the drug to help relieve pain from a back injury he received in a car accident.



Tasty tidbit

Bloomington, Ill.

Leslie Walker, 6, tries cheese fries for the first time at the McLean County Fair in



The King is back

block party in Harker Heights, Texas.

Richard Clark, dressed as Elvis, performs during a National Night Out



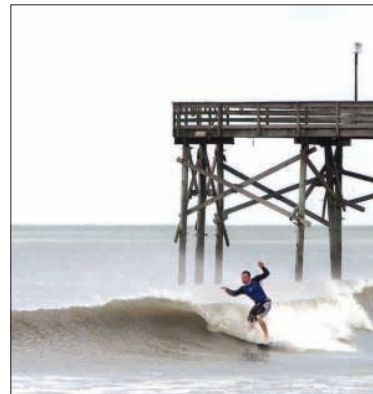
Butterflies at rest

A pair of tiger swallowtail butterflies, a type native to the area, perch on a butterfly bush at The Butterfly Place in Westford, Mass.



Boogie fever

Corey Fenton, left, lands on a boogie board after jumping into a pool in Urbana, Ohio. Keeping an eye on the action is Corey's brother, Calobe.



Storm surfing

A surfer enjoys remnants of Hurricane Alex at Risley Pier on Onslow Beach at Camp Lejeune, N.C.



A refreshing pause

A caribou drinks water out of a pond next to an old cabin at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center near Anchorage, Alaska.



Stuck with a paddle

A group of boys get stuck while kayaking in a swampy area in Cape Nedick, Maine.

Dogs died from heat

RI PORTSMOUTH — Seven dogs that died at a Portsmouth kennel two weeks ago probably succumbed to heat exhaustion, according to police.

Tests were conducted on two of the dogs and there was no evidence of foul play, Deputy Chief Lance Hebert told The Providence Journal.

The morning of July 19, K9 Instincts owner Matthew Betts went to check on eight dogs, including one owned by him. The dogs had spent the night in a "drying room," a separate facility at the kennel for dogs that are being picked up the following day. Betts found seven of the dogs dead.

Prehistoric evidence

WA GRANITE FALLS — Scientists reviewing a road project found prehistoric flakes from stone tools. Snohomish County public works officials are meeting with representatives from the Stillaguamish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes about preserving the artifacts. All three tribes claim the area as part of their ancestral grounds. The discovery is not expected to delay the \$18 million project.

Cold water kills fish

MD OCEAN CITY — A surge of cold water generated from an offshore current killed nearly a million adult Atlantic croaker, leaving maintenance crews at local resorts with their hands full of carcasses to clean up.

In Ocean City, maintenance crews scoured the beaches Tuesday picking up and disposing of hundreds of dead Atlantic croaker that succumbed to thermal shock.

The Maryland Department of Environment on Tuesday attributed the cause of the deaths to a sudden temperature drop in the water.

"They were probably swimming in water temperature around the 60 degrees," spokesman Richard McIntire said. "Then it got down to the 40s. Just like humans, some of us suffer heatstroke or suffer frostbite at different temperatures. Same thing with fish. They couldn't handle the rapid temperature drop."

Plane crash investigated

MO POINT LOOKOUT — Federal authorities are investigating what caused the crash of a small plane in southwestern Missouri that killed five members of a North Texas family.

The five, including a small child, were killed when their single-engine, six-seat Piper PA-32 aircraft crashed on takeoff Monday from College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Mo.

Family members told The Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The Dallas Morning News that those killed were pilot Steve Buchanan, 60, of Burleson, Texas, a retired Dallas firefighter. Also killed were his daughter, Lezi Graham, 37, of Arlington, Texas; her husband, Byron Graham, 37; and their children, daughter Kasey, 14, and son, Cade, 3.

Lezi Graham was a teacher at Summit High School in Mansfield, Texas. Her husband was a Mesquite, Texas, police officer, friends and family told the newspapers.

Hole swallows driveway

CO BOULDER — When Dan and Pam Decker came home from a movie July 3, their driveway had disappeared.

Where the path leading to their home should have been, there was a hole the size of a two-story house, caused by the collapse of part of an old coal mine underneath the property.

"It was like 25 feet deep and about 30 feet in diameter. All of that dirt just went down into the mine underneath it," Dan Decker said this week as he watched contractors pour a third truckload of concrete into the still-gaping hole.

Contractors eventually used 12 truckloads of concrete and topped that with 15 feet of soil.

Alamo gate recreated

TX SAN ANTONIO — For the first time in more than a century, a 16-foot-high gateway topped with gun turrets that served as the entrance to Mission San Antonio de Valero will be re-created at city expense.

Members of the Historic and Design Review Commission approved a request Wednesday by the San Antonio Living History Association for the design of the Alamo Main Gate downtown.

During events that commemorate the 1836 battle at the Texas shrine of independence, the gateway is to be placed in Alamo Plaza the last weekend in February and the first weekend in March next year.

'Pygmalion' revisited

NC LUMBERTON — The rain in Spain falls mainly on the ... prostitutes? A new program launched by health workers in eastern North Carolina's Robeson County calls itself My Fair Lady, aiming to reform sex workers just as a lowly London flower girl was turned into a lady in the play "My Fair Lady."

"We want to take a sex trade worker and transform her into a productive person who feels good about herself," said Bill Smith, the county health director.

But unlike the play, that work won't be done by a phonetics professor like Henry Higgins. Instead, a \$30,000 state grant will employ a former prostitute as an outreach person to help lead the transformations.

E. coli cases traced

NE OMAHA — Five cases of E. coli infection in Minnesota and Wisconsin have been linked to frozen ground sirloin patties sold by Sam's Club and manufactured at a Nebraska plant, health officials said.

Officials said four Minnesota residents and one Wisconsin resident became ill in July after eating sirloin patties purchased at Sam's Club stores in White Bear Lake and Eagan in Minnesota, and in Waukesha, Wis.

The plant in Columbus is run by the Oklahoma City-based Carmeco Holding Inc.

Officials said the implicated meat is being pulled from all Sam's Club stores. They also said it's possible the sirloin patties may have been sold by other retailers.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Prices too high downrange

I am serving in Iraq as a contractor; however, I am also a military dependent. My husband is serving in Iraq with the 1st Cavalry.

I used to buy items for him at the Army and Air Force Exchange Store. However, I am highly disappointed with AAFES. Their motto is "We go where you go"; however, it should read "We raise the prices when we go where you go." I thought AAFES was here for the troops, not to jack up the prices. For example, you can buy a postcard in the States for 4/51.00, no problem. However, I stopped at an Iraq-based post exchange and it is selling them for 50 cents each. What's up with that?

It's bad enough these men and women are away from loved ones and having to buy what the PX offers. However, they should not have to spend 50 percent more to get it. I refuse to buy anything from AAFES; I would prefer to purchase my items through a local Iraqi vendor, eBay or have my mother ship it to me. I would rather wait the eight days, instead of paying AAFES prices.

Furthermore, if they are here for the troops, why would they throw away tons of expired food, juices and even cigarettes? Why not just sell them to the troops at a discount price? The items are for the troops anyway. They need to remember these guys and gals are in Iraq. I am sure an outdated product would not ruin their day. Don't get me wrong, AAFES has done some good for the troops. However, it seems like they take all the good they have done and slowly charge them for it through overpricing. Go figure!

Stephanie Tobin

Tulji, Iraq

Siding with Bush

People shouldn't go spouting ideals on how John Kerry would be a better president without at least naming something good he's explained in detail that he plans to do... Oh that's right. You can't, because he hasn't said what he will do in detail.

I am neither registered as Democratic or Republican. I'm siding with Bush on this one because he's leading America to a righteous victory.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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The fact that the writer of "Vote for Kerry" (July 28) claimed the American culture (under Bush) is one of hatred makes me sick. We are attacking those who would attack us if given the chance, terrorists, known terrorist-supporting countries, and proclaimed American enemies. Now, between letting them attack us or us bringing the fight to them, I'd much rather be left knowing I'm protecting my wife and unborn child from those who would kill them rather than letting them within a hundred miles of our country.

This country was founded on kicking butt. That is the American culture. We are fighting for freedom for everybody.

If somebody wants anybody to vote against this war, don't say "for the sake of hundreds of those who have given their lives." No, I say vote for Kerry for the sake of the ideal American being fat and lazy and watching the horrors Saddam Hussein inflicted on his people as a form of entertainment.

I'm not saying Kerry would be a bad president. I'm saying Bush would be a better president. Also I'm not saying vote for Bush "for the sake of the hundreds who died," because that implies that the dead would have voted for him and that's just obnoxious. If we give up now, their deaths would be in vain.

Sp. Justin Bousum

Camp Victory South, Iraq

Weapon was captured

I am writing in response to "Bush vs. military standards" (July 24). While I appreciate the fact that the writer's son served in Iraq, she is quite obviously misinformed.

If she took a tour of the various military bases throughout the United States, she would notice many different weapons that were brought back from Iraq during the Gulf War. These are captured weapons, not stolen. They are part of our military history on display for all who serve to see. Even today, units are allowed to take certain weapons back to the United States after supplying various documents to get approval. Individuals are not allowed to bring home weapons, while units are.

I highly doubt that the Army unit "stole" that weapon and turned "stolen property" over to our president.

This letter seems to be the obvious Democratic "Bush bashing."

Dan Burris

Iraq

Some war trophies OK

To the author of "Bush vs. military standards" (July 24): Certain articles are allowed as war trophies as long as the appropriate paperwork is completed and approved by the appropriate authority, which your letter fails to take into consideration. You assume that this weapon was brought to the United States illegally. I'll wager a guess that the president of the United States has the ability to push paper through at a rapid fire pace if he so chooses. Your letter is obviously an extension of your political leanings and has nothing to do with the invalid argument you put forth in your article for violation of the rules or regulations governing war trophies.

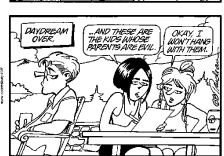
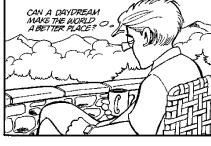
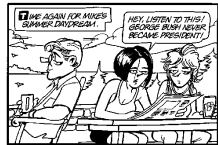
In addition, ask your Army reservist son if he was briefed on the legal way to bring home a war trophy. You are correct in one instance: If he had tried to illegally bring home any weapons of a banned type without proper authorization, he would have been given the appropriate punishment, and most deservedly.

Maj. B.D. Harrelson

Al Anbar, Iraq



by G.B. Trudeau



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Arriving in the Nick of time Chicago Tribune

On Saturday, Oct. 2, the kid-friendly Nickelodeon cable channel will go dark for three hours. A graphic will appear on the screen urging youngsters to go outside and play....

What a great idea. Here's what we imagine. Thousands of children, blinking, will emerge in the blinding outdoor light, staggering from their darkened television rooms into the yards and sidewalks of every town in America.

Released from television bondage, they are confused, disoriented. But soon they adjust. They realize that unlike what they've seen on television, square yellow sponges don't talk....

Instead, they rediscover the wonders of a Saturday in autumn, in a world unfettered by the television camera, ununsullied by the flash and glare of cartoons. With any luck, the imagination cranks to life. There are piles of leaves to crunch satisfyingly underfoot, or a football to toss. There's time to find a face in the clouds.

There are no commercial breaks.

Any parent who has grappled with a child to turn off the television and go outside to play will utter a small but fervent thank-you to Nickelodeon for its noble gesture, even if it turns out to be little more than a clever publicity stunt....

Parents are chthonian, and kids and parents realizing that they can survive for hours at a time without television. Or maybe they'll just change the channel.

Umbrella for rain of terror The Hays (Kan.) Daily News

Reforming the federal bureaucracy is not done easily or swiftly, even after a tragedy of 9/11 proportions.

Almost immediately after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, one problem was clear: The nation's different intelligence agencies did not communicate well. In fact, they operated almost as adversaries sometimes. So, they did not share information that might have set off more alarm about the threat of a domestic attack.

[A]lmost three years later, the Sept. 11 commission warned that the United States remains vulnerable to terrorist attack for the same reason....

That was not much different from... the ideas that surfaced in the days and weeks immediately after the attacks.

What can we do something? Can we knock down the walls of bureaucracy that threaten our very existence?...

What the government needs to do is complete and refine the concept of homeland security and consolidate the U.S.-com intelligence agencies under the position [President] Bush already has tried to create to try to fix the stratification that left the country vulnerable to terrorism.

A vulnerability, we are told, that still remains.

Specifics make a statement The Huntsville (Ala.) Times

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge issued a new terror alert last week-end, but this one was significantly different from those that have preceded it.

Ridge's announcement named names and gave specific targets, he said, a variety of credible sources have identified as terrorist targets....



The identification of specific sites is a step forward in two ways.

First, it allows local, state and federal authorities to plan effective countermeasures. Merely having Ridge mention that the targets have been spotted may serve as a deterrent. Certainly, forewarned is forearmed for America's defenders of the nation.

Second, getting specific is a giant step forward for the average American's psyche. Vague warnings of potential threats and an ineffective color-coding system that rates the current levels of peril offered the public little to assess in terms of how much danger there was and what to do about it....

Now, at least, sources in the targeted areas, people having business there and others who'll be in the vicinity should be on their guard to a greater degree — and better able to assist law enforcement elements that have been alerted to protect them.... What this doesn't mean, of course, is that these are the only targets that al-Qaida or some other terrorist organization might have their eyes on. Nor can authorities discount the possibility that what they've uncovered is "disinformation."

[W]hat we do know is that U.S. authorities say they have uncovered a plot, they've provided the public details of that plot and they've rallied forces to make sure that plot is thwarted. That's a very real improvement.

Networks don't have it covered The Press and Sun Bulletin of Binghamton, N.Y.

During the 1968 Democratic National Convention, demonstrators chanted "the whole world is watching." It was a politically charged time when America was involved in a war that many questioned.

Fast-forward to 2004's Democratic National Convention. America's again in a war. But this one is being fought on many fronts: Afghanistan, Iraq and wherever terrorists gather. The country is again isolated about our involvement. But is the "whole world watching?"

Apparently not. At a time when choices made by our government in response to the threat of terror or on many, critical do-

mestic issues are being debated, prime time network TV tuned out much of the convention in favor of reality TV leftovers. Some: capitalism, democracy 0.

The major networks seem to assume that most households have access to cable TV where they can watch all news network....

This is the perfect example of how public television fills a necessary void in America's communications industry.... Public broadcasting obviously likes to celebrate the fact we live in a democracy.

Shouldn't TV only be about ratings (and income)? Apparently the major networks think so. The whole world is watching, though, and won't soon forget where their priorities lie.

Clear about cameras in cockpit The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

Four years ago, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that commercial aircraft be equipped with crash-resistant video cameras in cockpits. Had this advice been heeded, Americans might know more about how terrorists hijacked four jetliners on Sept. 11, 2001.

[Late] last [month] the board conducted hearings on its proposal, which has been expanded to request cameras on both large and small planes. Safety officials recognize the value of tapping technology that can provide as much information as possible about the cause of accidents and security breaches.

The more investigators can learn, the better the chances of developing countermeasures.

Consumers speak for 'Spring' The Daily News of Longview, Wash.

The Bush administration is proposing to streamline the licensing of pesticides. But they're forgetting the message of "Silent Spring," Rachel Carson's 1962 classic that exposed the hazards of DDT.

Carson's work helped lead to a 1973 federal ban on the pesticide, which scientists showed was destroying bald eagles by making eggshells too thin to survive. Thanks to that ban, the national bird is making a dramatic comeback.

But there still is work to be done. Across our nation, more and more studies

are showing that chemicals washed off our farms and gardens are damaging our fish and wildlife....

Scientists aren't the only ones worried about the flow of toxic chemicals into the environment. Consumers are expressing their fears as well — by voting with their pocketbooks. Witness the explosive growth of organic farms and the rise of organic food stores....

All this means that the Bush administration's proposal to weaken the review process for licensing new chemicals is bad politics as well as bad policy.

Hopefully policy will take stage Star Tribune of Minneapolis

For an hour [on the night of July 29], Sen. John Kerry got to speak directly to the American people, unfettered by the carping punditocracy, the Republican smear machine and Fox News. From this perspective, what the American people saw was a smart, serious and compassionate man. Kerry came across as a real human being — a man of integrity who believes deeply in the promise of America and seeks to steer the nation to a more secure, more prosperous future.

But the American people saw something else as well [that] evening. This is not just about John Kerry; this is about an entire Democratic Party that refuses to be marginalized, refuses to cede the American flag, religious faith and the badge of patriotism to Republicans. They made it clear: They care about this nation, and they intend that their voices be heard and heeded in setting a new American course....

Kerry sketched in the briefest way his plans for domestic policy, and Americans will want more from him as the fall campaign unfolds. We would like to look forward to a campaign brimming with forceful clashes on specific policy proposals. We will see some of that in the presidential debates. Unfortunately, too much of the rest of the campaign is likely to be consumed by arguments about the severity of Kerry's wounds in Vietnam, whether Kerry staged film footage of combat, the use to which his wife puts her foundation funds and similar efforts to smear both of them. Kerry asserted that "America can do better." It can indeed, beginning with this fall's campaign.

Sunday Horoscope

The spotlight swirls around to each and every one of us under the Leo sun, so be sure you know what you're going to do when it's your turn. Getting your story straight means being certain in your own mind how you really feel about what's going on in the world. The moon enters Gemini tonight, bringing a second wind.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(August 8). Reach down inside yourself for true grit. Your passion is ignited by competition this month — you do well when you concentrate on your own gains and not on your opponent. Relationships turn your world topsy-turvy in September — some of you will even move to be with a special love. A windfall in September is connected with your talent.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your picture of the perfect relationship is not wrong, but it's different from a loved one's ideas. A conversation will clear up misunderstandings. Long-running success is possible when you're acting toward long-term goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You don't need to say you are a good person because others can tell. You'll get a second chance. Are in motion late again. The gears are in motion toward commitment. Bone up on your talent; you'll use it tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Success is not without struggle. Challenges only serve to show others how accomplished you can be. You'll be able to turn the tables in an unequal relationship. Be careful not to gloat, though, or this win becomes very temporary.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Enjoy the fun of having your true friends nearby, and don't worry about everything being perfect. You are more attractive than you know. What you saved comes in handy. Sagittarius and Pisces bring luck.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Special projects are all-consuming. Think twice before you even start. Couples easily gain one another's trust but should carefully guard this

because it is also easily lost. Dare to openly express emotions tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Make those plans for the future, but keep them to yourself for now. A jealous female should be handled with care. Put a little spice into your love life to keep things from becoming predictable.

Joyce Jillion



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You'll get the green light on expansion or education plans. Make up for mistakes as soon as possible. Look behind you as you leave a bus or restaurant booth; it's easy to lose things today. You could find what someone else left.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

If you have been neglecting your dreams in favor of a joyless reality, it's time to change the bad habit. Unexpected and late guests make the day more interesting. Do what you can to include elders in the festivities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

You are now better equipped to handle a family responsibility. You also have the power to reindeed love if you choose it. Because of your selfless efforts, a better relationship develops with a parent, spouse or friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Indecision interferes with luck, so be certain and clear. Pay no attention to what others think; do your life your way. Love is out to snare you. Enjoy the day, but don't go too far with spending or investing.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Enjoy could alter the dynamic of important friendships. Anticipate this problem, and stay away from potentially incendiary statements. You loved to interpret signals from loved ones.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You'll be in a poetic mood and will wish to share it. When people look at you cross-eyed, you'll think it's not easy being a dreamer. But when they applaud and laugh, you'll feel triumphant — your whimsy is someone else's delight.

Creators Syndicate

Getting vexed by 'vexillologist'

Well, he did it again. On the Fourth of July my know-it-all cousin stomped me with a word I'd never heard before. I'm not even sure how to spell it — "vexillologist?"

Don't be vexed by "vexillologist." Your cousin undoubtedly used your Independence Day celebration to bring it up because it is the word for a person who studies flags. Vexillologists undertake scholarly investigations of flags, producing papers with titles such as "A Review of the Changing Proprietors of Rectangular Flags Since Medieval Times, and Some Suggestions for the Future." Whitney Smith, a pi-

oneer in the field, is credited with having coined the term "vexillology" in the late 1950s for the study of flags.

An article I read used the term "fifth column." I have never heard this phrase before. What is a "fifth column?"

"Fifth column" is a term used to refer to a group of secret sympathizers or supporters of an enemy within a defense line or national borders, and especially such a group that engages in espionage or sabotage.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's WordWatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Leaving your dog unrestrained in a moving vehicle is a bad idea

Dear Abby: I found my dog, "Belle," last year at the pound. We bonded instantly and I knew I had to take her. She was sweet, funny and fearless.

I remembered the truck commercials on TV where the message was dogs love trucks. Belle was no exception. The day I bought my used pickup, she hopped into the bed and was ready to go. It seemed that half the vehicles I saw growing up were old pickups with dogs — always unrestrained.

At first, there were short trips to the store or on a back road. But after a month, we got more adventures.

Sometimes Belle would get excited and lean over and snout at passing cars. That should have warned me, but at the time I thought it was funny. It never occurred to me to be concerned.

Not until she fell out.

I watched in the mirror as she tumbled to the road. Belle survived the fall and started to get up, but before she could get out of the way, an oncoming car hit her.

It was stupid, awful and completely unexpected. And it could

have been prevented. A simple harness, or better yet, keeping my beautiful Belle in the cab would have saved her life.

Now, because of a stupid, macho image I had of a man, his dog and his truck, I have lost a beloved friend.

Dear Abby



Please, Abby, warn your readers that if they have a pet they care about, not to allow it to ride unrestrained in a truck bed.

— Grieving in Lexington, Ky.

Dear Grieving: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your beloved pet.

I'm printing your reminder for the benefit of other pet owners, but I would like to extend it. I frequently see young children standing on the seats of vehicles driven by their mothers, while Mom chats away on her cell phone.

I have also seen pets and people riding unrestrained in the back of open trucks. It takes only a moment for an accident to happen.

These kinds of accidents can be life-altering or fatal. So please, folks, use a little restraint — the kind that buckles.

Consider legal options for life with a narcissistic husband

Dear Grieving: *Edgar is a brute, and you are well rid of him. You are entitled to child support if your daughter is under age 18, and you may be able to get spousal support as well. You can access Edgar's money if your accounts are held jointly.*

There are attorneys who will help you for free or on a sliding scale. Check with your local women's associations and law schools, or contact the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (www.nladad.org), 1140 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20036. We'll be thinking of you.

Annie's Mailbox



Dear Annie: I am 15 years old and a sophomore in high school. Last year, I had this teacher who made my life miserable. Here's what happened: We were supposed to have our supplies by the end of the week, but since both my parents work, they never found time to take me to the store. I explained this to "Mrs. Smith," and she said I'd get half credit if I brought the supplies by Monday, which I did. However, when I told my dad about it, he called Mrs. Smith and said it was his fault I didn't have my supplies and she should give me 100 percent credit.

Dear Abby: I recently relocated to live near my son, "Gary," and his girlfriend, "Gina." Gary supports Gina and her three children, and talks constantly about marrying her and adopting the kids. Gary believes that Gina will marry him one day, but she has confided to me that once she finishes college and starts her career, she does not see herself married to my son.

I'm torn between telling Gary the truth and hurting him (not to mention damaging our relationship), or letting him find out in two years that he has been seriously used.

— Torn Mom in California

Dear Torn: Talk to Gina and urge her to reveal both your son. If she refuses, then you must do it. If he finds out in two years that you knew all along that he was being used and said nothing, it will be more damaging to your relationship than if you tell him the truth now. He won't like hearing it, but you must tell him what Gina told you. If he were my son, I would.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers may write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.fox.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

She did it, but she told me it was not fair to the other students who brought their supplies late. From then on, I got nothing but attitude from her. She even insisted that I use drugs. Annie, I have never touched drugs and don't plan to.

Here's the real problem: In spite of what I thought were good grades, Mrs. Smith said I failed her class so I have to retake it this year. I don't know if I have her again! I know she is going to treat me terribly.

— Ticked Off in Texas

Dear Texas: Your father's intolerance, while well-intentioned, pressured Mrs. Smith into doing something she resented. She then took out her resentment on you. Your parents should see if you can have a different teacher for this class. If not, the principal should speak to Mrs. Smith and see to it that she does not penalize you for last year's incident. It also wouldn't hurt for you to talk to her directly, and calmly, and let her know you're sorry you got off on the wrong foot and hope to do better this time around. Teachers appreciate that kind of effort.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of *Dear Abby*. Write or e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Fox News Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

— Grieving Out West

Mears sets record in Brickyard qualifying

NASCAR driver gets second straight pole with fast lap at Indy

By Mike Harris

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Casey Mears followed the path set by uncle Rick Mears, winning the pole position Saturday for the Brickyard 400 and taking the top spot for the second straight week.

Casey Mears took full advantage of an early draw in the qualifying line to post a lap of 186.293 mph. That broke the Indianapolis Motor Speedway's stock car qualifying record of 184.343, set last year by Kevin Harvick.

Rick Mears won six poles and four races in the Indy 500. "I've watched my uncle in the Indy 500 and the even my dad (Roger) race here in the early 80s," said Mears, a second-year driver for Chip Ganassi, who drove in the Indy 500 and won the open-wheel race in 2000 as a car owner with Juan Pablo Montoya at the wheel.

"I came here and missed the [500] in 2001," said Mears, who failed to qualify that May in a car fielded by Derrick Walker.

"That team has since gone away, but I've got a lot of unfinished business here. To not qualify that year was really a heartbreaker, and to be at the top of the board now is unbelievable."

Mears won the pole last Sunday at Pocono but finished 18th. The Brickyard and Pocono are the only two poles of his NASCAR Nextel Cup career.

U.S. sprinter Edwards facing 2-year suspension

The Associated Press

GIORGIOUPOULI, Greece — Barring a successful appeal, sprinter Torri Edwards will be suspended for at least two years for taking a banned stimulant, knocking her out of the Olympics and perhaps giving Marion Jones a chance to defend her gold medal in the 100 meters.

A review panel concluded there were no exceptional circumstances that would warrant a lesser penalty, Travis Tygart, director of legal affairs for the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, told The Associated Press on Saturday.

"The rule says it's a minimum of two years," Tygart said. The finding by the panel of the International Association of Athletics Federations has been forwarded to the U.S. arbitration panel that initially heard Edwards' case. That panel will determine Edwards' penalty but has no authority to make it less than a two-year ban, Tygart said.

The American Arbitration Association panel had found there may be exceptional circumstances in Edwards' case, but the IAAF

Brickyard 400	
Saturday qualifying race Sunday at Indianapolis Motor Speedway	
Lap length: 2.5 miles (Car and passenger cars)	
1. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 186.293 mph.	
2. (0) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 185.361 mph.	
3. (30) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 185.102 mph.	
4. (10) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 184.972 mph.	
5. (9) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 184.969 mph.	
6. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 184.685 mph.	
7. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 184.372 mph.	
8. (46) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 184.090 mph.	
9. (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 183.969 mph.	
10. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 183.910 mph.	
11. (9) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 183.842 mph.	
12. (37) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 183.576 mph.	
13. (4) Jeff Green, Dodge, 183.557 mph.	
14. (37) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 183.512 mph.	
15. (97) Kurt Busch, Ford, 183.512 mph.	
16. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 183.449 mph.	
17. (88) Darrell Waltrip, Chevrolet, 183.169 mph.	
18. (91) Bill Elliott, Ford, 183.094 mph.	
19. (99) Jeff Burton, Ford, 183.057 mph.	
20. (11) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 182.960 mph.	
21. (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 182.916 mph.	
22. (0) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 182.756 mph.	
23. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 182.537 mph.	
24. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 182.057 mph.	
25. (60) Jason Leffler, Chevrolet, 181.980 mph.	
26. (4) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 181.822 mph.	
27. (10) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 181.800 mph.	
28. (15) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 181.757 mph.	
29. (2) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 181.712 mph.	
30. (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 181.561 mph.	
31. (40) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 181.463 mph.	
32. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 181.408 mph.	
33. (42) Jimmy Spence, Ford, 181.320 mph.	
34. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 181.320 mph.	
35. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 181.210 mph.	
36. (21) Tony Raines, Dodge, 181.221 mph.	
37. (80) Ricky Craven, Ford, 181.100 mph.	
38. (30) Dave Blaney, Chevrolet, 180.941 mph.	
39. (48) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 180.941 mph.	
40. (1) Ricky Rudd, Ford, provisional.	
41. (34) Greg Boudner, Ford, provisional.	
42. (69) Scott Pruett, Dodge, provisional.	
43. (43) Greg Boudner, Ford, provisional.	
44. (34) Geoffrey Bodine, Dodge, 179.330 mph.	
45. (72) Kirk Shellemire, Ford, 168.870 mph.	

The top six qualifiers for Sunday's race were all faster than Harvick's lap. Ward Burton, who held the pole briefly, wound up second at 185.391, followed by Elliott Sa-



Driver Casey Mears is greeted by his dad, Roger Mears, following his qualification for the 11th NASCAR Brickyard 400 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Saturday. Mears set a new track record with a lap at 186.293 mph to take the pole for Sunday's race.

der at 185.162, Joe Nemechek at 184.976, Dale Earnhardt at 184.968 and rookie Brian Vickers at 184.665.

Earnhardt, still recovering from burns in the crash of a sports car on July 18, was the first of 50 drivers to make qualifying attempts.

The son of the late Dale Earnhardt, who won the Brickyard race in 1995, said his intended last month that the entire team to drive the entire race after using relief drivers each of the past two weeks.

Rounding out the top 10 were Ryan Newman, Jamie McMurray, series points leader Jimmie Johnson, coming off a victory

last Sunday at Pocono, and Sterling Marlin. Three-time Brickyard winner Jeff Gordon was 11th, while defending Brickyard champion Harvick qualified 32nd.

Bobby Labonte, another former Indy winner, had to use a provisional after blowing his engine during his qualifying attempt and will start 39th in the 43-car field.

Two-time Brickyard winner Dale Jarrett will start 17th, while Bill Elliott, who won two years ago and is racing only part-time in the Cup series, qualified 18th and Ricky Rudd, another former winner, also had to take a provisional after a slow qualifying lap and will start 40th.

disappointed" by the ruling.

The world champion in the 100, Edwards tested positive at a meet in Martinique in April, but she blamed a glucose supplement, saying she was unaware it contained the stimulant nifedipine. She said her physician bought the glucose at a store there because she wasn't feeling well.

Edwards was expected to contend for medals in the 200 as well as the 100 in Athens. Her absence could give Jones a chance to defend her gold medal in the 100 meters because it would free up a spot in the event.

At the 2000 Olympics, the fourth-place finisher in the 100 at the trials, would be entitled to Edwards' spot. But Devers could decide to focus on the 100-meter hurdles, an event she has dominated for the last decade except at the Olympics. Jones finished fifth at the trials and qualified for the U.S. team only in the long jump.

IOC delays decision on U.S. relay team medals

ATHENS, Greece — The International Olympic Committee delayed ruling Saturday on whether to strip the U.S. 1,600-meter relay team of gold medals from the Sydney Games, prompting criticism

from a track official who said it was "not a good message" in the fight against doping.

The team, which included Michael Johnson, could lose its medals because of a doping violation by teammate Jerome Young, a year before the 2000 Olympics. Young has already been stripped.

The International Association of Athletics Federations recommended last month that the entire team be penalized because Young should have been ineligible. The IAAF allowed 60 days for appeals to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. The deadline is Sept. 18.

The U.S. Olympic Committee hasn't appealed, and it is unclear whether any of the runners — Johnson, twins Alvin and Calvin Harrison, Antonio Pettigrew and Angelo Taylor — had done so on their own.

Young ran in the opening and semifinal rounds of the relay, but not in the final. Johnson ran the anchor leg in the final for the fifth and final Olympic gold medal of his career.

Agassi, Roddick meet in semis
MASON, Ohio The only thing missing from Andre Agassi's comeback was a little confidence. A 26-point tiebreaker gave

him more than enough. Agassi won a nerve-testing first-set tiebreaker Friday night, then closed out a 7-6 (12), 6-3 victory over fourth-seeded Carlos Moya that sent him to his first tournament semifinal in five months.

Agassi will play No. 2 Andy Roddick in the semifinals of the \$2.5 million Cincinnati Masters. Lleyton Hewitt faces unseeded Tommy Robredo in the other semifinal.

Roddick beat wild-card entrant Tommy Haas 6-3, 6-2 while Hewitt held off Marat Safin 6-4, 6-4.

Hull signs with Coyotes

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Brett Hull, third on the NHL's career goals list, signed a two-year contract with the Phoenix Coyotes on Friday.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The free agent forward, an 18-year veteran who spent the last three seasons with Detroit, has 741 goals — second only to Coyotes managing partner Wayne Gretzky's 894 and Gordie Howe's 801. Hull, who turns 40 on Monday, has also scored 163 playoff goals, fourth behind Gretzky, Mark Messier and Jarri Kurri.

Sports
briefs



A review panel recommended a two-year suspension for world champion Torri Edwards after she failed a drug test in April.

Black, Mora not worried about hamstring

The Associated Press

Michael Vick doesn't understand all the fuss over his sore right hamstring. Neither does his new coach, Jim Mora.

But they understand the concern Atlanta fans have about their star quarterback, who pulled the muscle on Thursday when the Falcons scrimmaged the Titans in Nashville, Tenn.

"It makes it seem like I'm just getting dinged up and injured and starting to come around a lot. I'll be fine, man," Vick said Friday. "It's just small injuries there, just nagging injuries, things that happen in training camp. It's nothing severe, so I don't know why it's being made a big issue of it."

Mora agreed.

"I don't want it to be a situation where every time he gets dinged everyone thinks the sky is falling because it's not," he said. "He's a tough kid. He had an unfortunate injury last year. That doesn't mean he's injury prone. He's not injury prone. He's a big healthy strong man," Mora said.

Falcons fans can be forgiven for wincing every time Vick calls for a timeout. After breaking his right leg last Aug. 16, he didn't play again until Nov. 30. By then, a season that started with so much promise had disintegrated. Vick's return helped salvage two more victories for a 5-11 record.

The way Vick grimaced and grabbed at the back of his right leg Thursday made it appear that the hamstring was back. He worked with his legs as with his arm had seriously hurt himself. Vick said he was caught off-guard.

Mora said Friday he should have realized the intensity of Atlanta's concern for him.

"He's an important part of our team and important part of our community, and we're all concerned when he goes down," Mora said.

Vick was dressed in pads Friday morning, but he didn't take any of his drills. He worked on dropping back some before standing around wearing his helmet and watching rookie Matt Schaub take a bigger share of the work in a joint practice with the Tennessee Titans.

These last few days also have helped Mora learn how to handle players who every pain is news for the country.

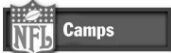
"That's better than the alternative of having no superstar. We'll take that anytime," he said.

Tight end Alge Crumpler was to sit out Saturday's scrimmage with the Tennessee Titans after an MRI test Friday on his aching left knee revealed a bruise.

"It was really a surprise to have that done," Mora said. "He hyperextended his knee. When he came down, he caught just a little bit of the bone, but it's not serious at all."

Rams: It could be another lost season for Jimmy Kennedy, the St. Louis Rams' first-round draft pick a year ago.

The 330-pound defensive tackle lost his right foot Thursday and could be out for the season. He was injured during a non-contact drill at the team's training



camp in Macomb, Ill., but it was not considered serious at first. However, a later exam revealed the break. He will undergo surgery next week.

Kennedy was the 12th overall pick in 2003 but was a huge disappointment last season. He showed up for training camp overweight and played only sparingly in 13 games.

Things had been looking up for him this season. New defensive coordinator Larry Marmie was allowing Kennedy to play at 330 pounds, closer to his playing weight at Penn State. Lovie Smith, the Rams' defensive coordinator last season and now head coach of the Bears, directed Kennedy to play at around 305 pounds.

Coach Mike Martz had seen improvement.

"He's not where he needs to be, but he's made terrific progress," Martz said earlier this week.

Panthers: Wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad has a compound fracture of his right ring finger that is expected to keep him out of several practices.

Despite the pain, Muhammad said it may be a good omen.

In 1999, Muhammad had the same injury to a finger on his other hand. He came back to catch 96 passes for a career-high 1,253 yards and eight touchdowns and was named his only Pro Bowl.

"Maybe it's a sign of good things to come," Muhammad said with a laugh.

Muhammad, who has started 87 games over the past six seasons for the Panthers, left practice Thursday afternoon after a hand deflected off his right ring finger.

"It's something I can play with, but right now I'm going to let it heal up and rest it for awhile," Muhammad said.

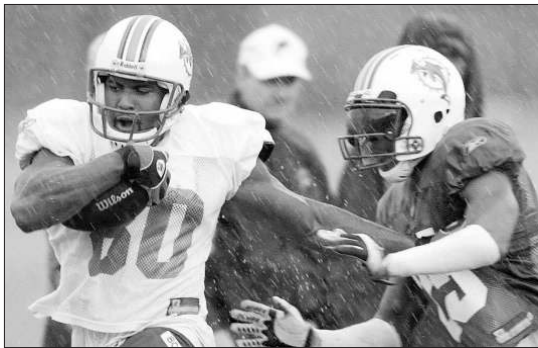
Jets: Santana Moss was to skip



practice Friday at the team's training camp in suburban Rochester, N.Y., where they will scrimmage Saturday. Boyer was carted off the field by the Browns' training staff.

Redskins: Linebacker LaVar Arrington didn't practice Friday morning because of a bruise on his lower left leg. He spent the morning session walking gingerly, with the leg wrapped.

"I've been fighting a little sprained ankle and the bruise to my shin kind of made my whole



Miami Dolphins wide receiver David Boston, left, will miss the season after injuring a tendon in his left knee on Friday in Houston. The Dolphins acquired Boston from the San Diego Chargers in an offseason trade.

practice against the New York Giants in Albany, N.Y., on Saturday with a sore hamstring.

Moss didn't practice Thursday or Friday, and coach Herman Edwards said he was holding Moss out for precautionary reasons.

Moss had a breakout year last season, catching 74 passes for 1,105 yards and 10 touchdowns and averaging 11.1 yards on punt returns.

Safety Reggie Tongue (left calf) and linebacker Eric Barton (left hamstring) are still out with their injuries. Both signed as free agents in the offseason and are expected to start on the Jets' revamped defense. Josh Evans will be able to go against the Giants after sitting out a few days with a sore left knee.

First-round pick Jonathan Vilma is questionable for the practice with a sore left calf. Vilma was injured Tuesday, and Edwards also wants to be cautious with the rookie linebacker.

The team signed veteran guard Pete Kendall on Friday to help shore up their offensive line. Kendall, entering his ninth season, was released Sunday by the Arizona Cardinals.

Browns: Linebacker Brant Boyer is out indefinitely after breaking a bone in his right foot during practice with the Buffalo Bills on Friday.

The injury happened late in the first of two sessions between the teams at the Bills' training camp site in suburban Rochester, N.Y., where they will scrimmage Saturday. Boyer was carted off the field by the Browns' training staff.

Redskins: Linebacker LaVar Arrington didn't practice Friday morning because of a bruise on his lower left leg. He spent the morning session walking gingerly, with the leg wrapped.

"I've been fighting a little sprained ankle and the bruise to my shin kind of made my whole

lower region kind of worse. They felt like, for whatever reason, they didn't want to let me go today, but I'm always prepared to try."

Linebacker Mike Barrow aggravated an injury to his left knee in the morning practice. Coach Joe Gibbs said he expected both linebackers to be fine.

Chiefs: Backup tight end Billy Baber injured his left knee during a joint practice Friday with the Minnesota Vikings in Mankato, Minn.

Baber was sandwiched by Vikings safeties Corey Chavous and Brian Russell after catching a pass from Trent Green. Baber came down awkwardly on the knee after Russell drove his shoulder into him.

Coach Dick Vermeil said preliminary examinations show a sprain.

Five sideline-clearing brawls erupted during two joint practices between the teams.

Giants: Linebacker Carlos Emmons missed his third straight practice because of pain in his left leg, the same one he broke during last season while playing with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Emmons downplayed his absence, noting that doctors told him he would occasionally have swelling in the leg. The nine-year veteran who signed with the Giants as a free agent said he wasn't even supposed to practice during the first week of camp, adding he probably did a little too much work.

"It is nothing out of the ordinary, it's part of the injury," Emmons said, adding there is a chance he might do some work in the practices with the Jets on Saturday.

Eagles: Several injured Eagles did not practice Friday, including S Brian Dawkins (knee), C Alonzo Ehirim (hamstring), TE Ronnie Ghent (concussion), WR Greg Lewis, DE Jerome McDougale (shoulder), DT Darwin Walker

(hamstring), LB Nate Wayne (ankle), and WR Jerome Leslie (knee).

Linebacker Ike Reese (knee), DE Corey Simon (foot) and C Jermaine Mayberry (hamstring) all tried to practice before Reid sent them for more rehabilitation.

Bengals: Starting tight end Reggie Kelly underwent surgery Friday to reattach a tendon in his thumb, which was torn earlier in the week during practice. He's expected to return for the Bengals' second preseason game, on Aug. 21 against New England.

Backup linebacker Khalid Abdullah likely is out for the season after suffering a dislocated right ankle during a goal-line drill Thursday. He underwent surgery Friday.

Dolphins: In Houston, Miami wide receiver David Boston will miss the season after injuring a tendon in his left knee during practice on Friday, coach Dave Wannstedt said.

Wannstedt said the initial diagnosis was a strained patellar tendon, but an exam late Friday in Houston revealed a more severe injury.

Boston, who is from the Houston area, was running a pass route when his left knee appeared to buckle during a workout against the Houston Texans.

"It is anticipated that the injury will require surgery that will sideline him for the season," Wannstedt said in a statement late Friday. "Further details of his condition will be available following the conclusion of the surgery."

Cardinals: Cardinals running back Marcel Shipp will be sidelined at least two months after dislocating his left ankle during an intrasquad scrimmage Friday night in Flagstaff, Ariz.

Shipp got caught underneath a pile during a routine running play and got his left leg wrenched in the artificial turf at Northern Arizona University's Skydome.

After several minutes on the turf, Shipp was loaded on a cart and led off the field.

Lakers continue makeover, trade Payton



The Los Angeles Lakers resumed their makeover on Friday by trading guard Gary Payton, left, and forward Rick Fox to the Boston Celtics for guards Chuck Atkins and Marcus Banks and center Chris Mihm.

L.A. sends 'Glove,' Fox to Celtics in 5-player deal

BY KEN PETERS

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — "Kobe's team" underwent still more changes Friday when the Los Angeles Lakers sent Gary Payton and Rick Fox to the Boston Celtics in a five-player deal.

The Lakers, putting perhaps the final touches on an extensive overhaul, got Chuck Atkins, Marcus Banks and Chris Mihm from Boston.

"We got a true backup center (Mihm) who can probably play a little bit of power forward, and we got much younger in the backcourt," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said.

The Celtics also received a conditional first-round draft pick and cash in the deal and sent a second-round pick to the Western Conference champs.

"As you know, we have made some dramatic changes," Kupchak said.

Celtics director of basketball operations Danny Ainge told Boston newspapers that Fox likely would retire because of nagging injuries, rather than play in Boston. Payton was "very shocked," he said. Ainge and Celtics coach Doc Rivers met Payton in Los Angeles on Friday to tell him on Boston.

"Gary was very respectful and very excited that we had so much interest in him," Ainge said. "But it's a difficult situation. He has a 16-year-old daughter starting high school and he's 36 years old and thought he was finishing in L.A."

Three days after the Lakers lost to the underdog Detroit Pistons in the NBA Finals, the shakeup began. Coach Phil Jackson was let go and Shaquille O'Neal demanded a trade.

Rudy Tomjanovich was hired as coach, O'Neal was dealt to Miami for Lamar Odom, Brian Grant and Caron Butler. Derek Fisher left for Golden State, and free agent Bryant signed a seven-year, \$136.4 million contract.

Later, Los Angeles signed free agent Vlade Divac, who was the Lakers' center in the early 1990s.

"We're hopeful, with the changes and the younger players, that we put ourselves in the position where we don't have to experience four or five years of mediocrity," Kupchak said.

"Hopefully, we'll be in a position to make the playoffs right away, advance in the playoffs, and at the same time have a good mix of young players who may be with us the next 10 years."

Payton and Karl Malone took large pay cuts to join the Lakers as free agents last summer, each All-Star hoping to win his first championship.

Malone, recovering from knee surgery, has not said whether he will return to the team.

Fox played with the Lakers for seven years, spending six previous seasons with the Celtics.

Kupchak said the Lakers hadn't sent out to trade Payton.

"We did not try to move Gary Payton. This was an opportunity that was brought to us. Had we been uncomfortable with Gary, we would not have protected him in the expansion draft," the GM said.

Despite struggling through his first year with Los Angeles, the 36-year-old Payton exercised a \$5.4 million option to return for another season.

A nine-time All-Star who averaged 18.3 points over his first 13 seasons, Payton averaged 14.6 points — his lowest since the 1992-93 season — and a career-low 4.2 assists in the regular season last year. He averaged 7.8 points and 5.3 assists in the playoffs.

Payton was selected to the NBA's All-defensive team eight times, earning the nickname "Glove," and was voted the defensive player of the year in 1996. He is fifth on the league's career list with 2,243 steals and sixth with 8,039 assists; he needs 44 points to become the 29th player in NBA history to score 20,000 points.

Payton won Olympic gold in 1996 and 2000. He has missed just six games in his 15-year career.

The 35-year-old Fox, who won three NBA championship rings with the Lakers, has career averages of 9.9 points, 3.8 rebounds and 2.8 assists.

The 7-foot Mihm, 25, averaged 6.3 points and 5.4 rebounds last year for Boston and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Atkins, 29, acquired from the Pistons midway through last season, averaged 8.4 points and 3.5 assists last year.

Banks, 22, a first-round draft pick out of UNLV in 2003, started two games for the Celtics as a rookie.

U.S. poised in win over world champs

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro — The world championships were inexplicably awful, and the U.S. basketball team put together an all-around excellent effort in its latest Olympic warmup.

Perhaps the worst is already in the past for coach Larry Brown's youngsters.

After breaking open the game with a 14-0 run to begin the second quarter, the Americans stayed in control the rest of the way and earned a standing ovation from the crowd after a 78-60 victory Friday night over Serbia-Montenegro.

"We just kept getting better," LeBron James said. "As time wears on, we are becoming more of a team."

James had 11 points and shot 5-for-6 from the field one game after being limited to seven minutes during practice.

Tim Duncan scored 16 points, Steven Marion had 10 and Allen Iverson added nine points, six assists and four steals in what was easily the U.S. team's best effort in four exhibition games.

The victory over the team that won the world championship on U.S. soil in 2002 should go a long way toward re-establishing the Ameri-

cans as one of the favorites for the gold medal in Athens.

When the evening began, they weren't even picked to win the game. Local betting parlors listed the Serbian team as a four-point favorite.

"We gave them too much respect at the start of the game. We were very bad," Serbia-Montenegro guard Igor Kokocev said.

The Americans took a partisan crowd out of the game by holding Serbia-Montenegro to just nine points in the second quarter, showing none of the faults that hampered them in earlier games against Italy and Germany while shutting down an opponent that appeared both overconfident and incompetent.

"We played hard and we tried to do what was right, and I think that was a significant step," Brown said.

The U.S. team went 14-for-14 from the free-throw line and 30-for-60 from the field while holding the Serbian team to 20 percent shooting overall and 1-for-14 accuracy from three-point range.

Rather than playing a zone as Italy and Germany did almost exclusively in the American earlier exhibition games, the Serbian team went with a man-to-man scheme.

The U.S. team also played man-to-man defense, and two of the game's best one-on-one moves were made by Dejan Bodiroga — often called the best player in Europe — against Carmelo Anthony. The first was the more impressive, Bodiroga dribbling behind his back and through his legs before darting around Anthony for a layup.

"It was an extreme desire to play," said Serbia-Montenegro coach Zelimir Obradovic, who said Bodiroga had a knee injury. He got an injection and played and that's it. With the U.S. Olympic team playing in Belgrade, he definitely did not want to miss this game."

The Americans bounced back after missing their first five shots and led 20-17 after one quarter.

The game got away from Serbia-Montenegro early in the second quarter, and the big run brought the American players and coaches off the bench in jubilation. One of the best sequences was a blocked shot by Shawn Marion (11) to a free throw, Marion on sprinting downcourt to finish it with a dunk off a pass from Stephon Marbury.

"We came out and I thought we were in a tight, missed some shots, but we started to defend and pass, pass, pass and play the right way," Brown said.

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Ramstein rebounds against Netherlands

Germany team evens record (1-1) in Transatlantic Regional play

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — Stephen Braden and J.C. Babin each singled home two first-inning runs Saturday as the Ramstein All-Stars defeated the Netherlands 12-2 on the third day of Little League Baseball's Transatlantic Regional tournament.

Ramstein (1-1) rebounded from a 12-1 loss to Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

"The kids are playing smoothly," Ramstein coach Andre Murray said after his team's morning romp on a sunny, breezy 80-degree day. "We had a challenge the first day, but they didn't let it bother them."

Tashawn Murray, who played second and third and pitched an inning, drove in three runs for Ramstein. Murray struck twice in four trips to the plate.

The Netherlands fell to 0-3 despite Taylor Broome having the best day of his life at the plate.

In his first two appearances Saturday, he hit solo home runs to account for all of his team's runs despite a steady wind blowing in from left center. Broome, who

Little League

went 2-for-2, was hit by a pitch in his final at-bat.

"I've never hit even one home run before," Broome said, "only in practice."

After the game, Broome, 12, was savoring the effect his blasts might have on his older brother, Michael, 14.

"This will show my brother," Taylor Broome said. "He always thinks he's better than I am."

The Netherlands will try to break through for a victory Sunday against Italy.

London 13, Naples 2: The good news for Naples was it ended a nearly two-day scoring drought. The bad news was it still lost to unbeaten London.

After losing 20-0 to Saudi Arabia on Friday, Naples' scoring drought continued until the sixth inning Saturday, even though the team didn't record a hit. The runs came off three walks, a fielder's choice groundout by Lucas Herwey and a wild pitch.

"We're going to take extra bat-



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Naples center fielder Lucas Herwey steals second base Saturday, beating the tag of London shortstop David Robertson. The play came in the fourth inning of a 13-2 victory for unbeaten London.

ting practice this afternoon," Naples coach Jim Hall said, "and if that doesn't work, I'm going to throw all the bats away and get new ones. I've done it before."

Despite his team's 1-2 record, Hall said his players are in good spirits.

"We think about these things [losses]," he said, gesturing to his coaching staff, "but the kids just think about their next chance to play."

Saudi Arabia 12, Spain 0: Logan Vimont and Mark Lumpa

combined for a no-hitter in a four-inning romp over Spain.

A walk issued by Vimont in the third spoiled the perfect game.

It could have been even worse for Spain (1-2). Right fielder Adrian Vargas made a sensational diving catch in the second to strand three Saudi runners and end an eight-run inning.

Left fielder Robert Wahlert stranded two more runners with another diving catch to limit Saudi Arabia to two runs in the fourth.

Saudi Arabia (3-0) has outscored its opponents 44-1.

"Our kids are hitting the ball pretty well," Saudi coach Tommy Bumstead said.

Saudi Arabia will enjoy an off day on Sunday, and will face the only other unbeaten team in the tournament, London, on Monday.

The top four teams in the round robin advance to Thursday's semifinals. The winners will then battle in Friday's championship game with a berth in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. on the line.

String of birdies gives DiMarco lead in international

The Associated Press

CASTLE ROCK, Colo. — Chris DiMarco figures he has messed up every hole at Castle Pines Golf Club in nine years of playing The International.

It's the kind of knowledge that can come in handy.

DiMarco had four birdies to complete his first round, then added nine in the second for 31 points and a nine-point lead under the tournament's modified Stableford scoring system on Friday before play was suspended because of darkness.

"Once you've played here enough and done well on every hole and screwed up every hole, there's really nothing else that you can do," DiMarco said. "So, you just go out and play the golf course."

Rain and lightning ended play Thursday, forcing half the field to



retire Friday for up to 33 holes at hilly Castle Pines. Two more rounds of storms hit Friday, setting up another long day in the altitude for 72 players.

The second round was completed Saturday morning, with 72 players advancing to the third round.

This course is a beast to walk and to walk 19 holes, it's one too many," said Olin Browne, who was fourth with 17 points after playing 25 holes Friday. "You have to walk 32 holes and you're ready to slit your wrists at the end of the day."

First-round leader Rod Pampling had 25 points through 11 holes before darkness hit Friday,

but struggled after coming back to complete his round Saturday morning. He had a bogey on his first hole back, No. 3, and added two more to drop to 22 points.

Bob Tway and Geoff Ogilvy were third with 18 points each. Browne made the biggest move of the day, tying the tournament record with 10 birdies in an 18-point second round.

But they all might have a hard time catching DiMarco, who had 17 points in the second round under a format that gives players anywhere from 8 points for a double bogey to minus-3 for a double bogey or worse.

Mallon, Jerman tied in Jamie Farr Classic

SYLVANIA, Ohio — Meg Mallon and Angela Jerman capitalized on early, windless conditions Friday and moved into the lead

after two rounds of the Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic.

Mallon, the U.S. Women's Open champion, offset a double bogey at the par-3 sixth with an eagle at the par-5 17th and moved to 7-under 135 with a 2-under 69.

Jerman, a second-year pro who had never led an LPGA Tour event, had five birdies and two bogeys in a 3-under 68.

Brandie Burton was alone in third, one shot back, after a 69.

Koch, Morgan lead HP Open; Sorenstam two shots back

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Karin Koch and Becky Morgan shared the lead in the HP Open after three rounds Saturday, with Annika Sorenstam two shots behind after a 3-under-par 69.

Koch, a Swedish LPGA Tour regular who played on Europe's winning Solheim Cup team last

year, shot a 68 to match the day's second-lowest round. She was at 7-under 209 with Morgan (69), a native of Wales who also plays on the LPGA Tour.

Sorenstam had her best score so far on Ulina's tough lakeside course. The Hall of Famer grew up a short drive away, but she has not played the course since she was an amateur 15 years ago.

Stadler, Purtzer lead 3M field

BLAINE, Minn. — Craig Stadler and Tom Purtzer carded 8-under 64s and shared the first-round lead in the 3M Championship.

Aussie Green up three in KLM

HILVERSUM, Netherlands — Richard Green shot a 3-under 67 to take a three-stroke lead after the third round of the KLM Dutch Open on Saturday.

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GOD BLESS ALL OF THE TROOPS
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OUR FREEDOM. MAY THEY ALL COME
HOME SOON AND MAY THEY ACCOMPLISH THE
MISSION THEY HAVE BEFORE THEM. WE
APPRECIATE YOU AND ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU.



Hi Craig, I did not see previously, Email "50 words ONLY": If

previous emails have been cut off, that's why. Much encouragements, hopes for your safe service, safe return. Hope you are feeling better (breathing). Many, many prayers: all in agreement for your safety. God's Speed!!! Love/Proud, Avalines, Mom.



To my Sam... I just want you to know that I love you more each day. You are my sunshine and I pray for your safe return home. Love



hello there I miss you and love you take care of yourself everyone is fine thinking of you and the troops. I love you sweetie. Other people

Matsui, Yankees have fun vs. Jays

By IRA PODELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hideki Matsui and the New York Yankees had so much fun hitting against Sean Douglass, they wish he could've struck around a little longer.

Matsui homered twice and drove in a career-high six runs in the first three innings against Douglass to power the Yankees to an 11-4 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday night.

Douglass was ejected in the third inning for hitting John Flaherty in the knees with a pitch three batters after Matsui's second shot. The ejection by plate umpire Chris Guccione came without a warning.

"I didn't even know how to react. I've never been tossed from a game," Douglass said. "I'm still upset at it."

Javier Vazquez (13-6) allowed three runs in the first inning but yielded only two doubles and a single the rest of the way before being removed after the eighth inning.

Matsui had his first multihomer game in 1½ seasons since coming to the major leagues from Japan. His three-run shot in the first inning offset one hit by Carlos Delgado in the top half.

"It was definitely huge for the team and huge for Javy," Matsui said.

Douglass (0-2) was hoping to give the beleaguered Blue Jays bullpen a rest, but that plan was scrapped when he was tossed.

"Whatever he thought, he thought wrong," he said of Guccione.

Flaherty was down in the count 1-2, after twice trying to bunt with Bernie Williams on third.

Douglass came inside with a fast-ball, struck Flaherty on the front knee, and was thrown out immediately.

"I was running to first base and I didn't understand why the fans were cheering as loud as they were," Flaherty said. "It was as big a surprise for me as anybody."

Toronto manager Carlos Tosca charged out of the dugout and spent most of his time talking with first base umpire Tim Tschida, the crew chief. Tosca was already in a pitching crisis because overworked right-handed relievers Kerry Ligtenberg, Vinnie Chulk and Jason Frasor were unavailable.

Blue Jays ace Roy Halladay was ejected in similar fashion last season, and Tosca ranked this call on par with that one.

"That's the probably the worst judgment I've seen an umpire use from rookie league ball to the big leagues," Tosca said.

Tschida spoke on behalf of the umpires and explained that Guccione saw catcher Gregg Zaun move way inside. With the game getting away from the Blue Jays, he determined that Douglass' intent was to hit Flaherty.

"At that point he has two choices, he can warn both teams or he can eject him," Tschida said.

Tosca handed the ball to Justin Miller, who allowed both inherited runners to score. Miller then gave up three runs of his own, one of which was earned.

Matsui, who finished 3-for-5, capped off the six-run inning with a single that drove in two.

"He seems to be taking more liberties now," manager Joe Torre said. "He's become a little more confident."



Detroit Tigers catcher Ivan Rodriguez, right, hangs onto the ball after tagging out Boston Red Sox baserunner Doug Mientkiewicz at the plate in the fourth inning of Friday night's game. Detroit beat Boston 4-3.

Dotel blows another save, but A's rally to top Twins

Chavez drives in deciding run in 11th as Oakland gains AL West lead with win over Central leader

The Associated Press

For the second straight outing, Oakland closer Octavio Dotel gave up a tying home run in the ninth inning.

This time, Dotel settled down and gave the A's a chance to win. After Shannon Stewart homered off Dotel leading off the ninth, Eric Chavez hit a go-ahead double in the 11th to give Oakland a 3-1 victory at Minnesota on Friday night.

Dotel (2-1) gave up a tying homer in the ninth to New York Yankees slugger Gary Sheffield on Wednesday and was pulled after the inning. New York went on to win in 11 innings.

Against Minnesota, Dotel stayed in the game, allowing just the one big hit and striking out two in three innings. "He made a lot of good pitches, but that was a bad one," Oakland manager Ken Macha said. "I look at it this way, though, we fought back in that game tonight."

Oakland moved into first place in the AL West, a half-game ahead of Texas. The Twins lost for just the fourth time in 17 games, but maintained a six-game lead over Chicago and Cleveland in the AL Central.

Eric Byrnes singled off Juan Rincón (4-4) with one out to start Oakland's rally in the 11th. Chavez followed with a line drive to the left-center field gap. Jermaine Dye then hit an RBI single up the middle.

"When things are going bad, we don't win that game right there," Chavez said. "It's a good sign."

AL Roundup

Mark Redman, Jim Mceir and Dotel combined on a four-hitter.

Dotel had his fourth blown save in 12 opportunities with Oakland.

Twins starter Brad Radke allowed five hits in nine innings, giving up a run in the fifth inning.

Devil Rays 2, Mariners 1 (10): Carl Crawford scored the winning run when Seattle shortstop Jose Lopez was charged with obstruction in the bottom of the 10th. Crawford was on third with the bases loaded and one out when Tino Martinez hit a fly to left field off Clint Naggett (1-6).

On the play, Lopez moved toward third and took a position between Crawford and left fielder Raul Ibanez.

Third base umpire Paul Emmel ruled Lopez obstructed Crawford's view of the catch and awarded Crawford home. Lopez was charged with an error.

Travis Harper (4-2) pitched two scoreless innings. He and starter Dewon Brazelton retired the last 16 batters they faced.

Tigers 4, Red Sox 3: Dmitri Young had three hits and scored twice to help the host Tigers end a four-game losing streak.

Young doubled to lead off the sixth inning and scored the go-ahead run when Carlos Guillen singled.

Boston dropped a season-high 10½ games behind first-place New York in the AL East. The

largest deficit the Red Sox have overcome to win the division is 10 games, in 1988.

Roberto Novoa (1-0) pitched 1½ innings for his first major league victory and Ugueth Urbina picked up his 18th save in 20 chances.

Derek Lowe (9-10) was the loser.

Angels 3, Royals 0: Kelvin Escobar struck out nine in seven innings and Robb Quinlan hit a two-run homer for visiting Anaheim.

Escobar (6-8) allowed seven hits and walked one in the Angels' eighth shutout of the season. Francisco Rodriguez struck out the side in the eighth and Troy Percival finished with a perfect ninth in his 19th save.

Indians 3, White Sox 2: Coco Crisp accounted for all of Cleveland's runs with a three-run homer in the second inning.

C.C. Sabathia (8-6) shut out the host White Sox for five innings before Chicago pushed across an unearned run in the sixth and Juan Uribe homered in the seventh. Sabathia struck out eight in seven innings. Bob Wickman worked the ninth for his third save.

Pinch-runner Willie Harris was thrown out at the plate by second baseman Ronnie Belliard to end the game.

Orioles 9, Rangers 1: At Baltimore, Miguel Tejada, Javy Lopez and Larry Bigbie homered to help the homesteading Orioles win their fourth straight and knock Texas out of first place in the AL West.

Erik Bedard (5-6) allowed one run on five hits in 6½ innings.

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Tonights Emails

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division			
	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	63.9%	10 1/2
Baltimore	69	56.7%	17 1/2
Tampa Bay	52	47.7%	24 1/2
Perry	47	46.7%	28 1/2
Toronto	47	43.1%	22 1/2

Central Division			
	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	61	56.5%	—
Chicago	54	50.9%	6 1/2
Baltimore	53	49.1%	7 1/2
Kansas City	39	36.8%	21 1/2

West Division			
	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	48	56.5%	—
Seattle	49	54.2%	1 1/2
Anaheim	50	54.1%	2 1/2

Friday's games			
Detroit 4, Seattle 1			
LA Angels 11, Toronto 4			
Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1, 10 innings			
Baltimore 9, Texas 1			
Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 0			
Oakland 3, Minnesota 1, 11 innings			
Kansas City 3, Anaheim 3			

Saturday's games			
Oakland at Minnesota			
Seattle at N.Y. Yankees			
Texas at Baltimore			
Seattle at Tampa Bay			
Boston at Detroit			
Chicago at Kansas City			

Sunday's games			
Boston (Waffelried 4-0) at Detroit (Robertson 9-0)			
Toronto (Baltista 9-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Lee 10-0)			
Seattle (Villone 3-2) at Tampa Bay (Henderson 4-0)			
Texas (Rogers 13-0) at Chicago (Pon-10-7)			
Oakland (Wood 15-3) at Minnesota (Silva 10-4)			

Monday's games			
Texas at Baltimore			
Oakland at New York Yankees			
Anaheim at Chicago White Sox			

Friday Tigers 8, Red Sox 3			
	L	Pct	GB
Damon	4	0.1	15 1/2
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Boston 10, Detroit 3			
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Two outs when winning run scored.
 E-Lopez (2), Huff (1), Fordyce (3), DP—Se-
 ford (13)—Seigo, S-Jampuz.

Seattle			
	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	7	1	0
Seattle	7	1	0
Seattle	7	1	0
Seattle	7	1	0
Seattle	7	1	0
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Seattle	7	1	0
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Seattle	7	1	0

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Baltimore 9, Texas 1			
Cleveland 3, Chicago White Sox 0			
Oakland 3, Minnesota 1, 11 innings			
Kansas City 3, Anaheim 3			

Saturday's games			
Oakland at Minnesota			
Seattle at N.Y. Yankees			
Texas at Baltimore			
Seattle at Tampa Bay			
Boston at Detroit			
Chicago at Kansas City			

Sunday's games			
Boston (Waffelried 4-0) at Detroit (Robertson 9-0)			
Toronto (Baltista 9-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Lee 10-0)			
Seattle (Villone 3-2) at Tampa Bay (Henderson 4-0)			
Texas (Rogers 13-0) at Chicago (Pon-10-7)			
Oakland (Wood 15-3) at Minnesota (Silva 10-4)			

Monday's games			
Texas at Baltimore			
Oakland at New York Yankees			
Anaheim at Chicago White Sox			

Friday Tigers 8, Red Sox 3			
	L	Pct	GB
Damon	4	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2
Yulkius	3	0.1	15 1/2

Boston 10, Detroit 3			
	L	Pct	GB
Damon	4	0.1	15



Los Angeles relief ace Eric Gagne is taken out of the game in the 11th inning after allowing four runs in a 9-5 loss to Philadelphia.

Phils rally vs. Gagne, topple L.A.

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Even with a five-run lead built on four homers, Philadelphia Phillies manager Larry Bowa wasn't comfortable. He's been conditioned by his team to think that way.

Fill-in closer Tim Lincecum blew the lead in the ninth by giving up Jayson Werth's second homer of the game. But the Phillies converted Cesar Izturis' throwing error into four unearned runs in the 11th, including a go-ahead, two-run single by Jim Thome off All-Star closer Eric Gagne, and beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 9-5 Friday night.

"We don't have easy games," Bowa said. "The Dodgers are a good team and they battled back and got some big hits, but the other guys all picked up the slack for Tim Worrell and we beat the best reliever in baseball. It doesn't get any better than that."

Jimmy Rollins led off the game with a home run, one of four by Philadelphia in the first two innings against Kazuhisa Ishii. Bobby Abreu, Marlon Byrd and Placido Polanco also connected.

The Phillies have won four straight overall and seven straight over the Dodgers.

Izturis fielded Byrd's leadoff grounder to shortstop in the 11th and pulled 6-foot-5 first baseman Hee Seop Choi off the bag with a high throw. Gagne (4-1) walked Rollins with one out, and Polanco loaded the bases with a single before Thome lined a single to center in his first career at-bat against Gagne for a 7-5 lead.

"I was just trying to get a fast-ball because his other two pitches, you're not going to hit because he doesn't hang them a whole lot," Thome said. "It was fortunate to get a fastball to hit and I hit it through the middle. To get that big hit with two outs was huge."

David Bell followed with a run-scoring single, and Todd Pratt completed the scoring with an RBI single against Duane Sanchez.

Giants rest easy behind Schmidt

Ace comes back a day early to beat Cubs for 100th career victory

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Though Jason Schmidt could have rested an extra day, he volunteered to pitch in an important game for the San Francisco Giants.

That type of dedication has turned Schmidt into the NL's winnipeg pitcher — and though he didn't have his best stuff, Schmidt hung on for his 100th career victory.

Schmidt struck out 11 in his NL-leading 14th victory, Michael Tucker hit a three-run homer and the Giants beat the Chicago Cubs 6-2 on Friday night in the opener of a key three-game series between playoff contenders.

One night before Chicago's Greg Maddux goes for his 300th victory, Schmidt (14-4) earned his 100th despite struggling through seven innings. With little control of his fastball, he threw far more curveballs than usual — and made enough big pitches to strand seven runners in scoring position.

"To be honest with you, I haven't felt right the last five or six starts," Schmidt said. "I go through this every year. I have a streak of six or seven starts where nothing works ... and then something clicks."

Schmidt spent most of the week preparing to start Saturday, but after a week of deliberation, the Giants decided Thursday night to use their ace instead of reliever Tyler Walker, who was expected to fill a hole in their rotation. Schmidt was to manager Felipe Alou to ask for the assignment.

"I believe we were right when we wanted to give him an extra day off, because he didn't really have his good stuff tonight," Alou said. "But it was also good that he decided to pitch the game today, because we needed it."

J.T. Snow hit a two-run homer and Tucker drove in four runs for the Giants, who got their eighth win in 10 games. The Cubs' four-game winning streak was snapped and their lead in the NL wild-card race shrank to one game over San Diego and two games over the Giants.

Nomar Garciaparra got three hits and scored a run, but the Cubs repeatedly failed to capitalize on scoring chances against Schmidt, who was shaky at home for the third straight start.

Chicago — The Chicago White Sox announced Friday that Frank Thomas is out for the rest of the season and that outfielder Magglio Ordonez might be, too.

Thomas is recovering from a stress fracture in his left foot and manager Ozzie Guillen said he doesn't expect Ordonez to return. "I think Magglio has to be ready for next season. I don't think Magglio is going to be back. That's my opinion. Hopefully we get him before, but I doubt it," Guillen said.

Thomas, hitting .271 with 18 homers and 49 RBIs last season, was sent on the disabled list July 10, was hoping to be back for the last few weeks of the season. But after examining the slugger Friday, White Sox podiatrist Dr. Lowell Weill recommended he spend another 6-8 weeks in a cast.



St. Louis' So Taguchi is out trying to steal second base as New York's Jose Reyes applies the tag in the fifth inning of Friday night's game. Mets shortstop Kazzuo Matsui backs up the play.

"We hit some balls pretty good off Schmitt tonight, had him in trouble a lot," Chicago manager Dusty Baker said. "He's such a good pitcher that he can strike his way out of that. He's a great pitcher when he needs to be."

Matt Clement (8-11) allowed five hits, four walks and a season-high six runs while dropping to 2-6 in his last 11 starts.

Cardinals 6, Mets 4: Albert Pujols' RBI single snapped a seventh-inning tie and Matt Morris (12-7) pitched seven innings to beat Tom Glavine (8-10). The host Cardinals won for the 14th time in 18 games.

Jason Irahenghaugen got his 29th save.

Mike Cameron, Richard Hidalgo and Cliff Floyd homered for New York.

Braves 4, Diamondbacks 2: Jarret Wright (10-5) extended his career-best winning streak to eight games and Adam LaRoche hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer for visiting Atlanta. Wright hit his first career home run and Rafael Furcal also had a solo shot for the NL East-leading Braves, who have won 12 of 14.

Padres 13, Pirates 1: Mark Loretta homered twice and had a career-high five RBIs to help the host Padres stop a four-game skid. Jake Peavy (8-3) won his third straight decision.

Astros 4, Expos 0: Roy Oswalt (12-8) struck out eight in a five-hit shutout, but the host Astros lost shortstop Adam Everett for at least four weeks with a broken left wrist.

Oswalt has won four straight decisions. Jeff Bagwell and Jeff Kent drove in two runs apiece for Houston. Montreal was shut out for the 15th time in season, six more than any other team in the majors.

Marlins 7, Brewers 6: Paul Lo Duca hit a two-run single off Dan Kolb (0-2) in the bottom of the ninth to give Florida a victory over error-plagued Milwaukee.

Rockies 8, Reds 5: Todd Helton and Preston Wilson each drove in two runs to back Shawn Estes (12-4). Shawn Chacon earned his 26th save. Adam Dunn hit a two-run homer for visiting Cincinnati.

Sox say Thomas, Ordonez are finished

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox announced Friday that Frank Thomas is out for the rest of the season and that outfielder Magglio Ordonez might be, too.

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Ordonez had surgery to repair torn cartilage June 5 because of a May 19 collision with second baseman Willie Harris, and missed 36 games. He returned July 8, but played in only 10 games before a fluid problem in the knee forced him back onto the DL July 21.

Ordonez will spend up to eight weeks on crutches.

Baseball looking at N. Virginia, Washington

NEW YORK — Major league executives planning the move of the Montreal Expos have spent most of the past two months concentrating on the bids of northern Virginia and downtown Washington, a top baseball official said.

Baseball met again Thursday

with the northern Virginia group, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The other areas that have submitted bids — Las Vegas; Monterey, Mexico; Norfolk, Va.; Portland, Ore.; and San Juan, Puerto Rico — have not officially been eliminated, but baseball has not devoted as much effort in recent weeks to examining their proposals, the official said.

Two high-ranking team executives, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, said this week that the choice pretty much had been narrowed to northern Virginia and downtown Washington.

Millwood placed on DL

LOS ANGELES — The Philadelphia Phillies placed Kevin Millwood on the 15-day disabled list on Friday because of acute tendinitis in his pitching elbow.

Millwood lasted only 42 pitches Thursday night in San Diego before leaving after two innings with what then was described as inflammation in the elbow. His previous outing last Saturday was also shortened because of elbow stiffness.

Mets release Spencer

ST. LOUIS — New York Mets outfielder Shane Spencer cleared waivers Friday and was released following an agreement involving the team, the commissioner's office and the players' association.

Spencer was suspended July 28, one day after being charged with driving under the influence in Florida. He was on the 15-day disabled list after cutting his right foot on a piece of glass in a New York bar.

It was not clear if the deal calls for Spencer to receive the entire \$537,500 salary he was due this year.

Colorado Rockies manager Clint Hurdle, right, reaches out to hug outfielder Larry Walker after Walker was traded to St. Louis during the Rockies' game against the Cincinnati Reds in Denver on Friday.

AP



Cards: Walker leaves thin air in Denver for rare air of St. Louis

CARDS, FROM BACK PAGE

St. Louis manager Tony La Russa wasn't certain where Walker would bat. He's been a No. 3 hitter most of his career, but that's where Pujols, runner-up for the NL MVP Award the last two years, has been all season.

"There's some good times ahead -- where to hit him, where to play him, how much to play him," said La Russa, who praised team ownership. "They're trying to give us every chance we can to get to the finish line and get to October and do some damage."

The 37-year-old Walker vetoed

"I have never heard so many people say so many good things about an organization as I have about the Cardinals."

Larry Walker

a trade to the Rangers just before the July 31 deadline for deals without waivers. In November 2002, he blocked a trade to Arizona for Matt Williams, who also vetoed the deal.

Walker's salary, age and history of injuries surely led to him passing through waivers. He didn't play this season until June 22 because of a groin strain, then hit three homers three days later in Cleveland. He has been on the disabled list eight times in his 16-year career.

"There were a couple of things that factored into this," Walker said. "I got to stay in the National League. Playing DH would be a big thing for me not being in the field all the time. I am familiar with National League pitching and the National League ballparks. Spring training for them is 20 minutes from my home in Florida. I have never heard so many people say so many good things about an organization as I have about the Cardinals."

The five-time All-Star is in the fifth season of a \$7.6 million, six-year contract that pays him \$12.5 million each in 2004 and 2005. The deal has a 2006 team option at \$15 million with a \$1 million buyout.

Colorado agreed to pay \$7.5 million of his 2005 salary.

The Canadian star has a career average of .315 with 357 homers and 1,232 RBIs. He has batted .300 nine times, including an NL-leading .379 in 1999.

"He has had a great career here and accomplished so much in a Rockies uniform, it is really bittersweet," O'Dowd said. "He didn't initiate it at all. I initiated all the conversations. When a player is at a certain point in his career, then you know there are certain things that he is looking for."

Walker was batting .324 with six homers and 20 RBIs in 108 at-bats this season. He said in recent weeks he would be willing to waive his no-trade clause to go to a playoff-contending team. One of his two Colorado homes is on the market.

Burch, 21, was 5-5 with a 3.61 ERA and 21 saves at Class-A Peoria. He was selected in the 21st round of the 2003 draft out of Nebraska.

Colorado began the night fourth in the NL West at 47-61. "He was not going to be with us after next year," O'Dowd said.

"This gave us the best opportunity to put him somewhere with a chance to win, and it gives Matt Holliday the opportunity to play every day."

Associated Press sports writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.



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SPORTS



Payton shipped to Boston
as Lakers breakup continues,
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Cards stack the deck

Trade for Walker adds more pop to powerful lineup

By R.B. FALLSTROM

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Larry Walker got his wish to play for a contender, filling the only hole in the St. Louis Cardinals' formidable lineup.

Walker, who blocked deals to Arizona and Texas the past two years, waived his no-trade clause Friday night to join the major league-leading Cardinals in a deal that sent minor league pitcher Jason Burch and two players to be named to Colorado.

The Cardinals are 70-38 after beating the New York Mets 6-4 on Friday night and appear headed to their fourth postseason appearance in five years. They lead the NL Central by 10½ games.

St. Louis, the NL's top-hitting team, bolstered its lineup even further with the addition of former NL MVP Larry Walker:



	Avg.	HR	RBI
T. Wornack .....	.298	5	30
E. Renteria .....	.289	8	48
A. Pujols .....	.326	61	80
S. Rolen .....	.334	26	97
J. Edmonds .....	.303	30	79
* L. Walker .....	.324	6	20
R. Sanders .....	.252	17	51
M. Matherly .....	.255	2	33

*Through 38 games with Colorado

"It is tough not to be happy about that. They are going to the playoffs and have a chance to win the World Series," said Walker, choking back tears as he spoke in Denver.

Walker, the 1997 NL MVP, three-time NL batting champion and five-time All-Star, gives the Cardinals a power-packed lineup that also includes Albert Pujols, Scott Rolen, Jim Edmonds and Edgar Renteria. They lead the NL with a .281 average.

The only trouble spot has been left field, where the Cardinals have used an assortment of players. Right fielder Reggie Sanders will move to left to make room for Walker in right.

"Well, as they say, the rich get richer," Mets manager Art Howe said.

Walker could make the Cardinals the favorite for the NL pennant.

"When you look at what he provides to our club and put him in the middle of that lineup, it's pretty exciting," General Manager Walt Jocketty said. "I feel he'll be energized to come in here and play for us, and I think he'll energize our club."

The only time Walker has



After more than nine years in Colorado, Larry Walker was traded to St. Louis on Friday for a minor league pitcher and two players to be named. Walker, a five-time All-Star, won three batting titles with the Rockies.

played in the postseason was in 1995 when the Rockies were eliminated in the first round.

"This is a great opportunity for him to go to a great baseball city and have a chance to win a world championship," Colorado Gener-

al Manager Dan O'Dowd said. "We tried very hard to put him in a city where he can accomplish his dream of winning a world championship."

Walker, a seven-time Gold Glove winner, cleared waivers

and agreed not to block the deal with his no-trade clause. He could join the Cardinals in time for their game against the Mets on Saturday.

SEE CARDS ON PAGE 31



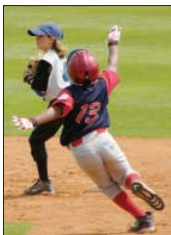
Falcons' Vick insists latest injury is nothing to worry about

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Matsui unloads on Blue Jays with 2 homers, 6 RBI

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Ramstein Little Leaguers bounce back, rout Netherlands

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